

Military frees airspace to cut flights chaos

Continent set to join sky-clearance plan

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

More than 6,000 square miles of British airspace now reserved for military flying are to be released to civilian use in an attempt to ease the congestion in Britain's crowded airways.

Vast areas of north Yorkshire, north Wales and the Bristol Channel are being made available for passenger-carrying aircraft after detailed negotiations between military and civilian air traffic control chiefs.

It is also planned to change the shape of two big naval training areas off the Isle of Wight — which have until now forced commercial aircraft into a single, narrow airway rather than a motorway contra-

flow system — to give air traffic controllers more than 13 miles more airspace to work in.

The number of flights which can be handled could then be increased.

Before this can happen, however, the French air traffic system will have to be changed to take account of the wider airway, and urgent talks are now under way with French civil aviation authorities to

with us and showing that they understand our problems. They are now prepared to move over the bed a bit and allow us a bit more room, although we would like even more.

In Britain the discussions have been going on in a series of joint military-civilian committees for nearly three years and have recently achieved remarkable results. A report about to be published by the Civil Aviation Authority will show that in that time the Ministry of Defence has agreed to give up 13 danger areas around the country and reduce the hours in which a further 39 are closed to civilian traffic.

Talks are continuing on releasing a further six training areas for military use, and even more areas are expected to be opened up soon.

The biggest military "give-away" is the vast north Yorkshire training area extending from South Shields to Carlisle in a huge oblong extending south towards Leeds.

Throughout the entire area civilian aircraft have until now been told to keep out of the upper airspace between 24,500ft and 35,000ft, forcing airlines to fly lower than they wished and preventing air traffic controllers from slotting more aircraft into the busy route north towards America.

Now they will be able to use as much of the airspace as they wish except on specific days when the military closes off the area for a particular exercise.

The RAF has also agreed to limit the amount of sky needed by its Hawk training squadrons operating from RAF Valley in Anglesey, enabling aircraft leaving Manchester to climb directly into the upper airspace on their way to holiday destinations throughout Europe rather than being restricted to low level routes only over north Wales.

Much of the Bristol Channel, until now virtually a no-go area for many commercial aircraft because of military training from RAF Brawdy, is being released, and it is hoped that two big naval flying training areas off the south coast will also be reduced.

Now they believe they have made a vital breakthrough and expect large areas of Italian and German airspace to be handed over to them from this weekend in time to help cope with one of the busiest weekends of the year.

Although the Italian Air Force has formally agreed to free part of the airspace around Rome, the Germans are still arguing that they cannot allow more civilian flights in their regard as Nato's "front line", and negotiations are still going on involving Nato, air traffic controllers and the German national airline Lufthansa.

A spokesman for the Geneva-based International Air Transport Association said last night: "The military are now beginning to cooperate

At 88, the Queen of grace

هكذا من العجول



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother greeting well-wishers who gathered outside Clarence House yesterday to cheer her on her 88th birthday (Photograph: Peter Triemer).

A poem for royal birthday

By Alan Hamilton

Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother celebrated her 88th birthday in time-honoured fashion yesterday by appearing at the gates of Clarence House and bestowing on the waiting crowd her particular talent of the common touch.

Her admirers, of whom there are a great many, had been waiting since dawn. They were rewarded at noon by an appearance of that indefinable quality, which is best described as grace. The Queen Mother, a higher master of public relations even than those who advise the Prime Minister, moved easily among the crowd of hundreds, who always assemble on her birthday, and seemed to have a smile for them all.

She spent more than 15 minutes with the crowd. She was seen to shake hands with a young boy, a young girl, a young man, a young woman, a young couple, a young family, a young group, a young crowd, a young nation.

Continued on page 22, col 5

Security dispute intensifies as Thatcher calls off walkabout

From Robin Oakley, Sydney

Police and Downing Street officials agreed yesterday to cancel a planned walkabout in Sydney by Mrs Thatcher, after the chaotic scenes in Melbourne the previous day when she was jostled by crowds of shouting demonstrators.

But the dispute between Mrs Thatcher's officials and the Victoria state police, who were responsible for the security breakdown in Melbourne, intensified.

The Sydney walkabout was cancelled after advice from the New South Wales police in the wake of the Melbourne incident. They said that they could cope but that large numbers of men would be required.

A Downing Street official said of the cancelled walkabout: "It was going to be more trouble than it was worth. The Prime Minister would not meet the public."

Mr Nick Greiner, the state Premier, said that there were some obvious security problems in a shopping centre that Mrs Thatcher had been due to visit, and that was why the walkabout had been cancelled.

People were entitled to protest, but they ought to do it in a sensible way. He described the Melbourne incident as "unedifying".

There was a strange twist to the dispute over the Melbourne affair, which is the subject of an internal police inquiry in Victoria. A Sydney television station

reported Mr Frank Green, the Assistant Commissioner of Police responsible for security in Melbourne, as saying that he had received a note of thanks from the Prime Minister. He said: "She said she realized that she had caused us a few problems but said, 'They can't stop us from going around, can they?' And they can't."

Mr Green admitted that, for a moment, "it was hairy". He said that, given the experience again, he would do things differently, including calling in more police.

But he maintained: "The media contingent in front of the Prime Minister was our main problem."

Mr Green also claimed that he had advised against the walkabout route chosen by the Thatcher party, but his plans had been dismissed by British officials.

But Downing Street sources were emphatic that Mr Green had played no part in the reconnoitring discussions and that they had received no advice against using the route chosen.

They insisted that no letter of thanks had been sent to Mr Green, though one possible source of confusion was that Mrs Thatcher did thank some police officers on leaving Melbourne airport for their efforts to protect her.

In further television interviews, Mr Green said that he was "not a politician" and that he was "not a member of the government".

Continued on page 22, col 6

MPs back Prime Minister on nuclear arms control caution

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister's repeated insistence on caution and vigilance in the wake of last December's historic superpower agreement to eliminate intermediate nuclear weapons was firmly endorsed yesterday by an all-party Commons committee.

The influential Foreign Affairs select committee issued a warning of significant political pitfalls ahead for Nato and said it was trying to inject an element of realism into the public debate on arms control.

The MPs, in a sobering report, acknowledged that, under Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Soviet Union had portrayed itself as reasonable and peace-seeking.

However, they said that public statements by Soviet officials were not matched by

the positions they adopted at the negotiating table, and that there had been no change in the pattern of the Soviet Union's military procurement and deployment programme.

Mr Gorbachev and the INF treaty had generated a wave of optimism in the West. Nato had to damp down expectations. It had to convince the public that negotiations towards arms control would be "increasingly difficult", and that, in the meantime, there should be no slackening of Nato defences.

The INF treaty could lead to more not less defence expenditure as conventional forces were strengthened. Reductions in nuclear missiles were likely to be smaller than anticipated.

Foreign Office sources welcomed the report as an effective counter to the "incautious" welcome that had been given to recent changes of attitude in the Soviet Union. These changes were as

yet "perceived" rather than "verified".

Mr David Howell, Conservative chairman of the committee, said: "If expectations are raised too high and it is assumed that in the era of Mr Gorbachev the whole process (of arms control) can go rattling forward at great speed... then that is dangerous over-optimism and can lead to great disappointment."

In tone, though not in all details, the report reinforces the stance adopted by Mrs Thatcher and Mr George

Younger, Secretary of State for Defence, in statements since the INF treaty. Both have constantly asserted that it was Nato firmness that led to the treaty, and have insisted that reducing the Soviet Union's huge superiority in conventional and chemical weapons is a prerequisite of further progress.

However, the committee also implicitly questions the wisdom of some stances adopted by Mrs Thatcher. The Prime Minister is determined that Nato's short-range nuclear weapons should be modernized in the wake of the INF treaty. The MPs acknowledge genuine concern over this in West Germany and say that the issue has to be handled "with great sensitivity".

WIN £138,000

Portfolio Accumulator

PLUS NEW
● With one winner of yesterday's £4,000 daily prize (see page 3) the Portfolio Accumulator stands at £138,000. Prices: page 27

Museum collections in danger

Five million biological specimens could rot away in British museums because of underfunding, a report by the Museums Association says.

It says most museums cannot afford to employ even a single specialist curator to care for valuable flower, insect and animal collections. Some have cataloguing backlogs dating back 200 years. Page 2

£7m frozen in Clowes hunt

Liquidators for Barlow Clowes International, the offshore arm of the crashed investment group, have frozen assets of up to £7 million of Ryeman Ltd, a British Virgin Islands company. Ernst & Whinney, the accountancy firm acting as liquidator, has obtained court orders in London and on the Isle of Man freezing the assets. Page 23

England slide

England struggled to 203 for nine in the final Test against the West Indies after being 116 for two. Page 36

Degree results

Aston University and London medical and veterinary degrees will be published tomorrow. Sussex and Birmingham awards appear today. Page 26

TIMES FOCUS

From cool reeds to champagne-like beers, Times experts offer tips for drinks to enjoy in the long-delayed British summer. Pages 16, 18

INDEX

Home News	2-6
Overseas	7-9
Business	23-28
Sport	32-36
Archaeology	15
Arts	19
Births, marriages, deaths	29, 30
Business to business	29, 30
Chess	15
Church	25
City Diary	14
Court	20, 22
Crosswords	12
Diary	20
Entertainment	10-12
Features	20
Information	32
Law Report	13
Leading articles	13
Letters	30, 31
Motoring	14
Obituary	10
On This Day	21
Science Report	21
TV & Radio	26
University results	22
Weather	22

Electricity prices may rise by 5pc

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Electricity prices are likely to rise again next April in the run-up to privatization. An 8 per cent rise was announced last April and next year's could be about 5 per cent.

The Electricity Council reported yesterday that it had met government financial targets for the past three years without rises, but now accepted that it would have to raise prices to continue to meet the norm for nationalized industry profits.

Overall the industry met its government targets for the year 1987-88, but the generating side reported reduced profits because of higher costs in running nuclear power stations.

The industry reported profits of £865 million before tax and £154.6 million after tax.

Targets met, page 23

Comparative profits, page 26

Two workmen die in Ulster ambush

By Mark Whittet and Andrew Moger

The upsurge in violence in Northern Ireland continued last night with the killing of two men in Belleek, Co Fermanagh. They were ambushed with automatic weapons within sight of an RUC police station, some 300 yards from the border with the Republic.

Four gunmen carrying rifles stepped out from a behind a wall in front of a van as it carried workmen home to the small Belleek village and poured a volley of shots into the vehicle. Two men — one a Protestant — died instantly.

The reason for the attack was unclear, but it was understood the men were working on a building project at the local police station. Recently, the IRA has warned construction companies against taking on such contracts.

One of the first people on the scene, a crossroads in the middle of the village, was a local physician, Dr Eugene

Deeny, who said: "The two men must have been killed on the spot. I heard a large number of shots — it must have been at least 50 — before I got to the scene."

"It was a picture of butchery. They had multiple bullet wounds to their heads and chest."

The RUC and the Garda last night launched a manhunt on both sides of the border.

Book bomb: A parcel bomb was received yesterday at the constituency office of the Rev William McCrae, Democratic Unionist MP for Mid-Ulster.

Book-sized and bearing a Dublin postmark, it was opened by his private secretary, Mr Rodney Mitchell, and was later destroyed by the Army with a small controlled charge.

The RUC then warned members of the Ulster public to be on their guard when examining and opening their post.

Labour attack on Militant bastion

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Labour Party's battle against the Militant Tendency is about to flare again with rule changes going before the autumn conference designed to crush its last bastion of organized influence, the Young Socialists.

The YS, long regarded as a Militant-front organization, is to have its power base weakened under proposals giving more weight to the National Organization of Labour Students and young members of leading trade unions.

And the YS is to lose its right to elect a member to serve on Labour's ruling national executive. Instead a new National Youth Conference, made up of a cross-section of young Labour activists, will elect the NEC member. In recent years the YS nominee has been a Militant supporter, giving the tendency a vital foothold in Labour's policy and organization machine.

Militant pledged last night to stop the changes at the October conference in Blackpool. A spokesman said: "These changes are clearly aimed at limiting the influence of Militant among young people. But they will work no more than the efforts of the Labour leadership to limit our influence in Liverpool have worked. We are stronger than ever in Liverpool, and this latest attack on us will eventually make us strong among young people in the Labour Party."

The new rule changes mark the second stage of Labour's assault on Militant within the Young Socialists.

The last conference agreed changes to the regional organization of the Young Socialists, by creating regional youth campaigns committees and breaking Militant's regional power.

"Militant is gradually being swept aside," a senior Labour figure said yesterday.

The highly-paid 'custody' of Red Square pilot

From John England, Bonn

West Germans waiting for Herr Mathias Rust's personal story of his derring-do flight to Red Square in Moscow will have to be patient.

Herr Rust, aged 20, was flown back to West Germany on Wednesday after being pardoned and freed by the Russians from a four-year labour camp sentence for his stunt. But he was yesterday in another, albeit more lucrative, form of custody — at a secret hiding place known only to the weekly magazine, Stern.

The magazine, through Herr Rust's parents, Herr Karl-Heinz and Frau Monika Rust, bought world rights to his story within a few hours of his landing near the Kremlin walls on May 28 last

year. It will begin to reveal all on Monday in an exclusive series.

It is reported to have paid the Rust family more than £300,000 for its coup. But it is bound to show a profit from world sales of serialization, book and film rights. Stern's syndication department said yesterday that British rights to the story had already been sold, although it would not say to whom and for how much. Hollywood film agents are also said to be rushing to sign up Herr Rust for an epic on his aerial adventure, with one bid said to be at least \$100,000 (£57,000).

But the newly-rich young man, meanwhile, faces possible West German legal action over his flight, despite his pardon by the Russians. The public prosecutor's office in Itzehoe, near Hamburg, says an

investigation which it began in June last year will continue.

Allegations against Herr Rust include suspected endangering of air traffic and fraud. The latter count is in connection with his hiring of the Cessna 172 from the Hamburg Aero Club for a tour of a "few days".

The Civil Aviation Authority in Hamburg says it will also question Herr Rust about his flight to help it decide whether he will be allowed to keep his private pilot's licence.

Stern came out yesterday without a word about Herr Rust because the Russians, inconveniently, freed him too late for even its notably agile editors. But its representatives, some of whom are believed to have flown with Herr Rust

Continued on page 22, col 6



Herr Rust: Taken to a secret hide-away by journalists

Oh well,
YOU CAN BE SURE OF SHELL

NEWS ROUNDUP

Tax dispute over street car races

A valuation court was asked to decide yesterday whether roads in Birmingham used for Britain's first Monaco-style car racing are liable for a £30,000 rates bill.

Birmingham City Council objected to an Inland Revenue decision that the 2.47 mile circuit for its two-day Super Prix ceased to be a public highway during the August Bank holiday event. Officials said the street racing would be jeopardized if the council had to pay a rate demand of more than £100,000 to cover the event since it started in 1986.

The Inland Revenue told the Birmingham Valuation Court that the streets used by Formula 3,000 cars were liable for rating because they were closed to the public, who were charged for admission.

Mr Bryan Burgin, district valuation officer for the Inland Revenue, said: "Highways cannot be subject to rateable values, but these roads are being used for something else which is beneficial".

The court will give its decision next Wednesday.

Smoke risk study

Babies of mothers who smoke are nearly twice as likely to require urgent hospital care as children of non-smoking mothers, a survey by Tameside and Glossop Health Authority in Manchester has found. The study compared 50 babies who were urgent admissions to hospital with 100 babies who were non-urgent admissions. The link with smoking by their mothers was clear, Dr Tony Edgar, specialist in community medicine, said. "The most important action young mothers can take is to keep clear of cigarettes."

Africar written off

The project to build a plywood rival to the Land Rover, called Africar, for use in the Third World has floundered following development difficulties. The company has laid off its 30 workers and its factory has been re-possessed. Lancaster City Council will attempt to recover some of the £100,000 of loans it provided. Production of the car, which received national publicity when the project's founder, Mr Anthony Howarth, made four TV programmes documenting a 10,000 mile trek to prove its durability, was to have started over 12 months ago.

Deposit plan attacked

A Government plan to charge a £150 deposit before cases can be taken to industrial tribunals will lead to "cheque book justice", according to the National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux. The Association's director, Elizabeth Filkin, said that, if enacted, "the proposals would seriously erode the original intention of these tribunals as a cheap and accessible means of resolving grievances at work". People did not generally undertake industrial tribunal cases lightly and introducing an extra financial burden would unfairly deter those on low incomes, she said.

Pit arrests cash

Nottinghamshire police have paid more than £30,000 to 10 people for wrongful arrest, assault and false imprisonment during the year-long miners' strike of 1984. The settlement, which includes legal costs and compensation, was paid after the issuing of writs against Nottinghamshire's chief constable by the National Union of Mineworkers. Mr Sidney Richmond, aged 79, a former miner from Mansfield, and his son, Mr Norman Richmond, aged 40, each received £2,000.

Police impersonation

Three men were charged yesterday with impersonating police officers after an incident at a traffic diversion on the A607 between Melton Mowbray and Leicester, at Melton Mowbray Magistrates' Court. Ian Hutchinson, aged 23, of Grange Drive, Christopher Brooks, aged 19, of Conway Drive and Mark Ellingworth, aged 17, of Chadwell Close, all from Melton Mowbray, were remanded in custody for 24 hours to appear before magistrates at Loughborough, Leicestershire, this morning. Hutchinson faces an additional charge of burglary. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

IRA activity marks 20 years of troubles

German link to Mill Hill bomb

By Stewart Tandler and Michael Horsnell

Scotland Yard detectives believe the IRA bomb used to blast the Inglis Barracks at Mill Hill, north London, on Tuesday could be similar to devices planted by the Provisionals last month at an Army camp in West Germany.

Anti-terrorist specialists suspect that an IRA active service unit in Britain is using crude, short-timed devices from bomb makers who also supplied the IRA unit which planted two 20 lb bombs which wounded nine servicemen at the Glamorgan Barracks, Duisburg.

There was a growing suspicion in Belfast yesterday that the sudden upsurge in IRA activity could be linked with a campaign to mark the twentieth anniversary of the latest Ulster troubles in August next year.

Police do not rule out the possibility that one IRA unit may have been responsible for the Mill Hill and West German attacks. Forensic specialists are likely to compare debris and other evidence.

In both attacks, the bombers struck at night, leaving devices which exploded a few hours after they were activated.

Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch believes the Mill Hill bomb was left sometime during Sunday night or early on Monday morning. The bombers had picked a barrack block used by permanent staff at the camp, which meant they could be assured of a target. They had also known enough about the barrack routine to avoid a night patrol.

The bombers are thought to have parked a getaway vehicle close to the camp and then walked into the central area through an unguarded back gate. They had opened a rear door to the building and had slipped the bomb, hidden in a bag, inside.



Mourners carrying the coffin yesterday at the funeral of Mr John Warnock, an RUC officer killed by a IRA car bomb.

The police have identified at least four suspects. They believe the most likely bombers were two men seen at about 11pm going into the block with a bag who left later empty-handed. They also want to trace a jogger who was seen running through the rubble.

They are also interested in identifying a young woman, described as blonde and "striking", who was seen crossing the parade ground in front of the bombed block.

Det Supt Christopher Bird confirmed at an inquest yesterday that a bomb had caused the blast. The inquest at Hove, north London, coroners' court was on Lance Corporal Michael Robbins,

aged 23, who was killed in the explosion.

He said explosive traces were identified from swabs taken at the site.

Professor David Bowen, of Charing Cross Hospital medical school, west London, said the cause of death was "traumatic asphyxia". He said after the hearing had been adjourned that a number of people had been trapped by rubble.

A pro-IRA march and rally is to go ahead in London tomorrow in spite of calls for it to be banned. Scotland Yard has told the organizers to ensure that it passes without confrontation and warned that grounds could still arise which could lead to a ban.

The march, organized by the Irish Freedom Movement to mark the seventeenth anniversary of internment in Northern Ireland, will be held in Islington, north-east London.

About 2,000 people are expected to attend the four-mile march, which starts outside Islington town hall and ends with a rally at Whittington Park where prominent republicans are expected to speak. Local councillors are expected to attend.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark, Conservative MP for Selly Oak, called for a ban on the march, which was organized months ago. However, the only person with the power to formally request a banning order by the Home

Secretary under the 1936 Public Order Act is the Commissioner of Police.

Mr Phil Murphy, national organizer of the Irish Freedom Movement, said: "We don't see why events of the last few days should lead us to call off the march. We see it in the context of a war which has gone on for 20 years."

Scotland Yard said: "We have communicated with the organizers that it is our intention to see it passes off without confrontation or conflict. There are no grounds to ban the march so far."

The march marks the start of a renewed republican campaign to demand the withdrawal of British troops.

CFCs 'will bring an epidemic of skin cancers'

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

There will be an epidemic of skin cancers in Britain unless a drastic reduction is made soon in the use of CFCs that are damaging the ozone layer, according to a leading article in the *British Medical Journal* by one of the country's most eminent dermatologists.

Professor Rona MacKie, from the University of Glasgow, predicts that the type of skin cancers that are prevalent from long, daily exposure of white skin to intense natural sunlight, in places such as Australia, will become commonplace in the UK. She

describes plans to reduce the production of CFC compounds used in aerosols, refrigerators and plastic cartons by half by the end of the 1990s as "too little, too late".

"A drastic reduction is needed as soon as possible to prevent an environmental problem from becoming an environmental catastrophe", she says.

The cancers would be caused by an increase in ultraviolet B radiation slipping through the ozone screen to reach the earth's surface.

But the article, written in conjunction with Dr Michael Rycroft, of the

British Antarctic Survey, draws attention for the first time to the threat posed by ultraviolet C radiation in sunlight.

They say: "whereas current instruments detect ultraviolet B, ultraviolet C may now be penetrating through a depleted ozone layer with grave biological consequences".

They say evidence of this must be sought and an international network of monitoring equipment is needed to record changes of all types of ultraviolet radiation: A, B and C.

The loss of ozone is caused by chlorine atoms released from the

CFCs. The chlorine atoms interfere with the normal processes by which ultraviolet radiation is first filtered out and then followed by regeneration of ozone involved in the reaction.

But the chlorine atoms remain in the atmosphere for more than 100 years, and one atom of chlorine may destroy 10,000 ozone molecules.

Since a hole in the ozone layer was first discovered over Antarctica, man-made substances have reduced it by 10 per cent. Scientists agree that a 1 per cent reduction in the shield leads to a 2 per cent rise in ultraviolet B reaching the earth's surface.

Britain's biology heritage 'in crisis'

By Andrew Billen

Millions of biological specimens are in danger of rotting away, a Museum Association survey disclosed yesterday, months after a National Audit Office report showed that thousands of works of art were decaying in under-supervised museums.

The 600-page report on 300 British museums holding specimens of flowers, insects and animals says the nation's biological heritage is in crisis. It blames decades of underfunding for endangering nearly five million specimens, 2.5 million of which it classifies as already "in a bad condition".

Three-quarters of museums cannot afford to employ even a single specialist curator to look after their collections, the report says.

It recommends the rationalization of collections and an increase in funding to pay for more curators and laboratories.

Mr Fred Dunning, of the Natural History Museum, who chaired the working party that oversaw the five-year survey, called for the appointment of a dozen travelling biology conservators, to do emergency conservation work.

"The cost would perhaps be £750,000", he said.

"It is comparatively easy to get money for the arts. You can raise £2 million for a painting but you cannot find £2,000 to conserve any number of biological specimens." Although the names of the worst affected museums have not been disclosed, the report says three-quarters of museums in the UK are incapable of ensuring the proper care

Some have backlogs of uncatalogued specimens dating back 200 years; one has obtained a natural history collection in 1784 began cataloguing only in 1978.

Mr Graeme Farnell, director general of the Museums Association, called the report "shocking". Mr Fred Woodward, deputy keeper of natural history at Glasgow Museum, said the report would tell curators little they did not already know about chronic underfunding.

He said his museum had dried plants collected in the 1920s that were still lying in their original newspaper wrappings. His department's staff would have to be doubled to allow proper conservation.

Drug offers hope to heart patients

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

A new £1 a day drug treatment that could reduce the risk of heart attacks by two-thirds has been supported by a British medical expert who claims it could help more than 100,000 people suffering from inherited high cholesterol.

Professor Barry Lewis, a cholesterol expert at St Thomas' Hospital, south London, yesterday said that the new drug, Gemfibrozil, appeared to have few side effects and could be of significant long term benefit for high cholesterol sufferers.

A five-year trial conducted in Helsinki, Finland, on 4,000 men showed that the number of heart attacks were reduced by a third in the first year and by two-thirds after five years. Participants in the trial were put on the same low cholesterol diet and were counselled to stop smoking and take more exercise. They were compared with a control group who were also counselled, but were given a placebo.

Dr Vesa Manninen, of Hel-

sinki University, told a press conference in London yesterday that there were few medical side effects.

Dr Manninen said that the drug increased the amount of high density lipoprotein (HDL) in the blood, which removes cholesterol from body tissues, taking it to the liver where it is broken down and eliminated from the body.

It also decreased low density lipoproteins which carry cholesterol into the tissues.

Professor Lewis said about half of Britain's adult population had undesirable high cholesterol with about a quarter of those presenting a high risk of coronary heart disease. Professor Lewis has been using the drug, which has been marketed by the manufacturers Warner Lambert under the name Lopid for nearly a year, on his own patients.

He said: "I think it is a magnificent study. It shows that there is a drug which has no significant side effects which reduces the incidence of heart attacks by one third at least."

Researchers reject vitamin link to IQ

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Claims that vitamin supplements can boost the intelligence of schoolchildren have failed to find any support in a study into the supposed link published in *The Lancet*.

In January, researchers at the University College of Swansea claimed to have found a significant increase in intelligence among schoolchildren given supplements at Darland High School, Wrexham, Clwyd.

The study was seized on by some health product manufacturers who marketed vitamin supplements implying that they improved IQ.

Now a substantially larger inquiry, involving more than 150 London schoolchildren, has failed to find any evidence for an IQ improvement.

Conducted by the department of food and nutritional sciences of King's College, London, the study looked for differences in intelligence among 11 and 12-year-olds given either a vitamin supplement or a placebo.

Both sets of children performed better in the second IQ

tests given after the pills had been administered, a reflection of their greater familiarity with such tests. However, there was no significant difference between the groups in the results.

The King's College team conclude that "while vitamin and mineral supplements may be of benefit to the health of children whose diets give cause for concern, it is clear from the present study that no improvements in intellectual performance can be expected."

Dr Michael Nelson, a member of the team, said the results were also supported by biochemical studies of the way in which the brain absorbs vitamins.

These have shown that the brain has a kind of overload protection mechanism which stops unnecessarily high levels of vitamins accumulating.

Dr Nelson added that a further study, to be published later, showed that even for children from relatively poor backgrounds, vitamin supplements had no effect on IQ.

Passenger delays at Gatwick

Engine trouble halts Virgin

By David Nicholson-Lord

Passengers flying to New York with Richard Branson's Virgin Atlantic faced long delays from Gatwick yesterday after a Boeing 747 was grounded with engine faults and Virgin was unable to charter a replacement.

Most of the 378 passengers scheduled to fly out at 4.15 pm were found seats with other airlines but some had to wait until this morning after a hold-up of 18 hours.

On Wednesday almost 400 passengers bound for Miami, on a flight scheduled to leave Gatwick at 12.30pm, departed six hours late after Virgin managed to charter a Cargolux aircraft. Yesterday, however, Virgin tried 80 airlines but could not find a replacement.

The Boeing suffered damage to the engine mounting and was being repaired by

FLIGHTCHECK



British Airways: Virgin could not say when it would be back in service. Passengers were urged to check in as normal but were advised to ring 0293 38222 for further information.

Other flight details: Birmingham: Wardair flight to Toronto departed 8.05am, departed 1 1/2 hours late. Danair flight from Miami scheduled 3.20pm, arrived 4.20pm.

Bristol: Paramount flight to Faro scheduled 10.50am, departed 11.50am. Some flights arriving and departing early, airport says.

East Midlands: No delays.

Gatwick: CalAir flight to Faro scheduled out 2.55pm, expected to depart 11pm.

Heathrow: No delays.

Leeds/Bradford: No delays.

Manchester: Arrivals: British Airways from Munich scheduled 3.15pm, arrived 7.15pm; Danair from Faro scheduled 3.15pm, arrived 6.30pm; Calair from Palma scheduled 3.50pm, arrived 6pm; Britannia from Tenerife scheduled 6.10pm, expected 10.40pm.

Departures: Air Portugal to Lisbon scheduled out 4.50pm, departed 5.45pm; CalAir to Los Palmas scheduled out 5pm, expected to depart 10.05pm.

Newcastle: Arrivals: Paramount flight from Salomika scheduled 3.05pm, arrived 3.55pm; Britannia flight from Heraklion scheduled 5.45pm, expected 10.45pm.

Mestel leads in chess round four

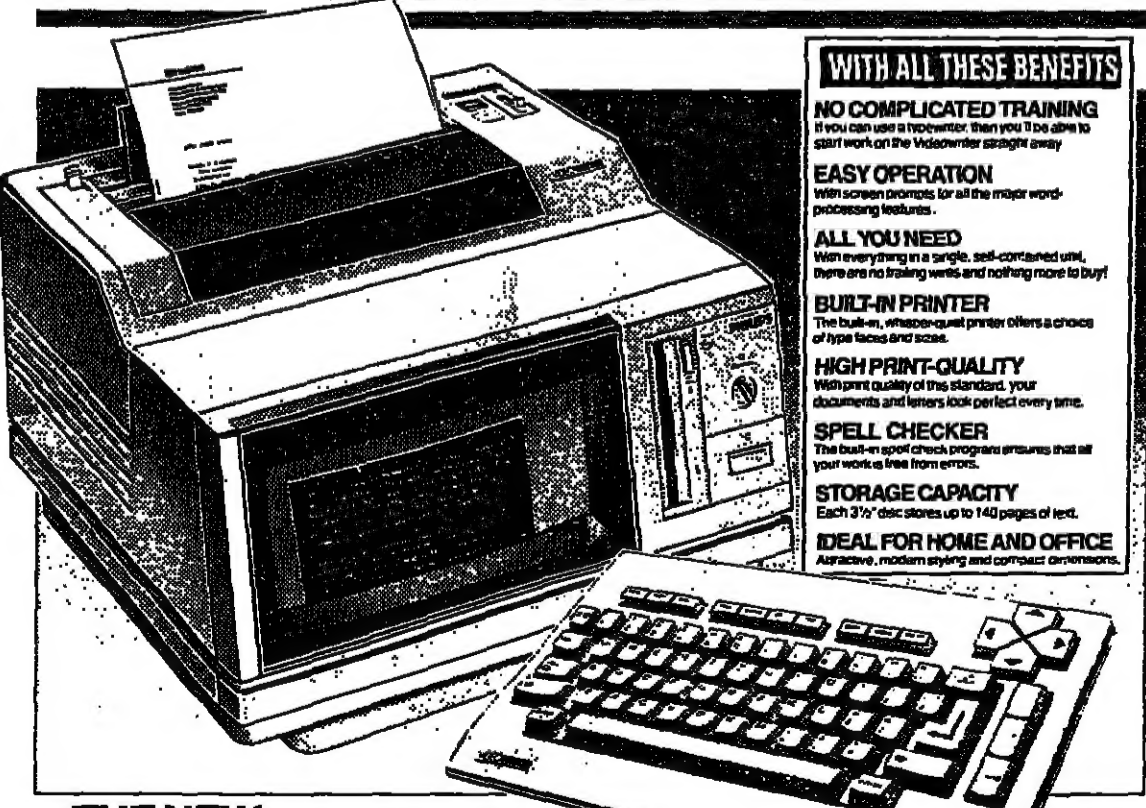
By Harry Golombek, Chess Correspondent

Round four of the Kleinwort Benson British Chess Championship at Blackpool produced a clear leader when Murray Chandler and Niaz Mamedov, Jonathan Mestel beat the Bolton international master David Norwood to bring his score to 4 points out of 4, leaving Chandler and Mamedov half a point behind.

Mestel has twice been champion in 1976 and 1983.

Round four results: Murray Chandler 4, N Mamedov 3, D Norwood 2, J Mestel 1, C Beaumont 0, J Cooper 0, G Lane 0, V Anand 0, I Rogers 0, I Howell 0, D Knox 0, W Watson 1, K Arkell 0, N Carton 0, A Dunnington 0, P Wells 0, J Poulton 0, R Freeman 0, A Jones 0, G Oswald 1.

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Half-point rise in base rates fails to satisfy markets

By Steve Levinson
Economics Correspondent

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مكتبة الأصيل

INF deal welcomed, but with warning to Nato

Nuclear weapon cuts will 'raise tension in the West'

By Martin Fletcher, Political Reporter

Progress towards genuine arms control is fraught with potential dangers for the Nato alliance, the Commons foreign affairs committee said yesterday.

The all-party committee identified a series of political problems that such progress — particularly the superpower agreement to eliminate intermediate-range nuclear forces — had created or accentuated.

After an intensive seven-month inquiry, taking them to Bonn and Washington, the MPs pointed to the likelihood of exacerbated tensions between Nato members, to the probable need for greater defence spending at a time when the public perception was of a diminishing threat by the Soviet Union, and to powerful Russian propaganda, not yet matched by that country's actions.

They said the INF treaty would lead to a smaller reduction in nuclear weapons than was generally expected. Nato would be in a weak bargaining position for negotiating cuts in conventional forces, and the difficulties involved in verifying conventional and chemical weapon cuts would be immense.

The MPs also expressed concern about the political and defence implications of a reduced American presence in Europe.

The committee, which has a Conservative majority, said it welcomed the INF agreement. Further arms controls and reductions should be pursued "as vigorously as possible".

However, it added that "governments should be prepared for a long haul" and

should not allow themselves to be carried away on the wave of optimism that had been created by Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the Kremlin leader.

In the period ahead the divergence between politically encouraged expectations and probable results is likely to face Nato governments with major challenges", the committee said.

The report said the INF treaty intensified the controversy over whether short-range nuclear weapons should be improved and modernized to compensate, and that was a threat to relations between West Germany and her Nato allies.

The Germans were acutely aware that greater reliance on short-range nuclear weapons increased the probability of West Germany becoming the principal "battleground".

The issue had already caused "considerable strains" within the alliance. "Unless

DEFENCE EXPENDITURE OF NATO COUNTRIES

	GDP %	Total (\$Bn)
US	6.8	282.165
Greece	6.3	2.972
UK	4.7	30.859
Turkey	4.7	2.890
France	4.0	34.529
Norway	3.2	2.634
Portugal	3.2	1.135
Netherlands	3.1	6.502
Germany	3.0	34.233
Belgium	3.0	4.142
Italy	2.2	16.806
Denmark	2.1	2.157
Canada	2.1	8.518
Spain	2.0	5.738
Luxembourg	1.2	76

Source: Statement of the Defence Estimates, CM 344-I, p 53

the issue is handled with great sensitivity... the political consequences for Nato could be serious.

The INF treaty also raised the issue of whether to deploy cruise missile-carrying submarines or air-launched cruise missiles capable of reaching Russia. That would compensate for the loss of land-based intermediate missiles and maintain Nato's "flexible response" capability.

However, the report questioned whether doing so would be in the spirit of the treaty. "It will come as a surprise to many that while land-based missiles are to go, both Nato and the Warsaw Pact are rapidly devising new weaponry to cover much the same targets as before."

Nor did the treaty mean lower defence spending. Conventional forces would have to be bolstered to compensate, and that would be costly. At the same time, the United States would be pressing for Europe to contribute proportionately more to its own defence.

"The alliance faces a further problem — how to maintain public support for defence spending when the Soviet Union's image is softening."

In spite of the Soviet Union's apparent new attitude, "the committee has yet to see hard evidence of a change in deployment of Soviet forces or of procurement for future deployment".

The MPs said it was important politically for Nato to do its utmost to respond with counter-proposals to Russian initiatives

and to put forward its own ideas for negotiation.

In the event of a superpower agreement to make deep cuts in strategic nuclear weapons, the report said America might be reluctant to devote as many nuclear systems to the defence of Europe.

Further strategic arms talks might have to involve the British and French nuclear forces. The threat of American "decoupling" was present.

"All this contains the seeds of possible difficulties for the UK's relations, particularly with the United States."

After nuclear arms reductions, the Soviet Union's considerable superiority in conventional and chemical weaponry would become "the prime source of instability".

The committee notes that "to reach anything like an equal balance in conventional forces, the Warsaw Pact and particularly the Soviet Union would have to withdraw as much as two-thirds of their strength in tanks and artillery from Europe."

"It is hard to see much leverage from the Nato side with which to negotiate from strength."

The problems of venting agreed cuts in conventional and chemical weapons would be of an entirely different magnitude to the verification required by the INF treaty. There were "great and increasing complexities" that would have to be faced, but the attempt should be made.

Foreign Affairs Committee: The Political Impact of the Soviet Arms Control and Disarmament (Stationery Office: £12.95)

Threat to Brent teachers' jobs

Union to fight redundancies

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Britain's biggest teaching union has vowed to fight plans to make 230 teachers redundant in the Labour-controlled north-west London borough of Brent.

The National Union of Teachers forced Haringey, the Labour council in north London, to withdraw similar plans to dismiss teachers earlier this year as part of budget cuts. Yesterday the union declared its determination to fight Brent.

A meeting of the borough's education committee on Wednesday agreed to save £3.29 million as part of cuts totalling £17.2 million the council is making to avoid being ratecapped.

The plan involves dismissing teachers, closing all nursery schools and four youth and community centres, scrapping the school meals service and ending grants to all but four community groups.

Although the union said it would fight the redundancy plans — expected to save the council £1.25 million — it privately accused the council of employing "scare tactics".

Union officials said talks

had already taken place about shedding up to 200 of Brent's 2,100 teachers through voluntary redundancy and early retirement.

Among those whose jobs could be at risk from the cuts is Mr Malcolm Horne, the union president, who teaches at Willesden High School. He was on holiday in Australia yesterday and had not been told of the council's decision.

Mr Nitin Parshotam, education committee chairman, said last night that even if the cuts were implemented in full Brent would still have a better pupil teacher ratio than many other London boroughs.

Parents at two successful and popular comprehensive schools have been told that if they agree to the schools being turned into city technology colleges they will receive £4 million to pay for rebuilding and other improvements (David Tyler, Education Editor, writes).

Critics describe the scheme as unfair to other schools in the area.

A report in this week's *Times Educational Supplement* says that the CTC option for the future of the two-single

sex Haberdashers' Aske's schools in Lewisham, south-east London, is strongly supported by Mr Christopher Bostock, the chairman of the governors, on behalf of the Haberdashers' Livery Company, which runs the school jointly with the Inner London Education Authority.

A consultation document on the future of the schools is being sent to about 10,000 people, including parents, former pupils, and staff as well as to parents and staff of local schools who may consider sending their children there in the future.

In discussing the city college plan, the document explains the two other options — remaining as voluntary-controlled schools with Lewisham after the abolition of ILEA, or opting out.

As a city college each school would be funded by Whitehall, but unlike other CTCs would be able to top up this grant from their own resources.

Parents are told that the new colleges would improve the schools' facilities for science, humanities and physical education.

Counties of old die hard

By David Walker

Many people living in Humberside still believe it is really the East Riding of Yorkshire but, in spite of fierce allegiance to the old boundaries, the counties created in 1974 are here to stay, according to a report published today.

The Local Government Boundary Commission says it has not been convinced of the need to redraw the map even though strong feelings exist locally that Avon properly belongs to Somerset, and that Cleveland is a mismatch of Yorkshire and Durham.

In *People and Places*, which reports on the Boundary Commission's work since 1983, the commissioners say that "those who write to us or whose names appear on petitions are usually only a small proportion of those concerned and we can make no assumptions about the views of the silent majority either way".

The law allows the commissioners to recommend the abolition of counties, but the commissioners say that protesters have not convinced them that new counties such as Humberside have failed.

The Boundary Commission's recommendations include giving the Isle of Wight a single council for all functions instead of the county council and two district councils which now serve its 119,800 people.

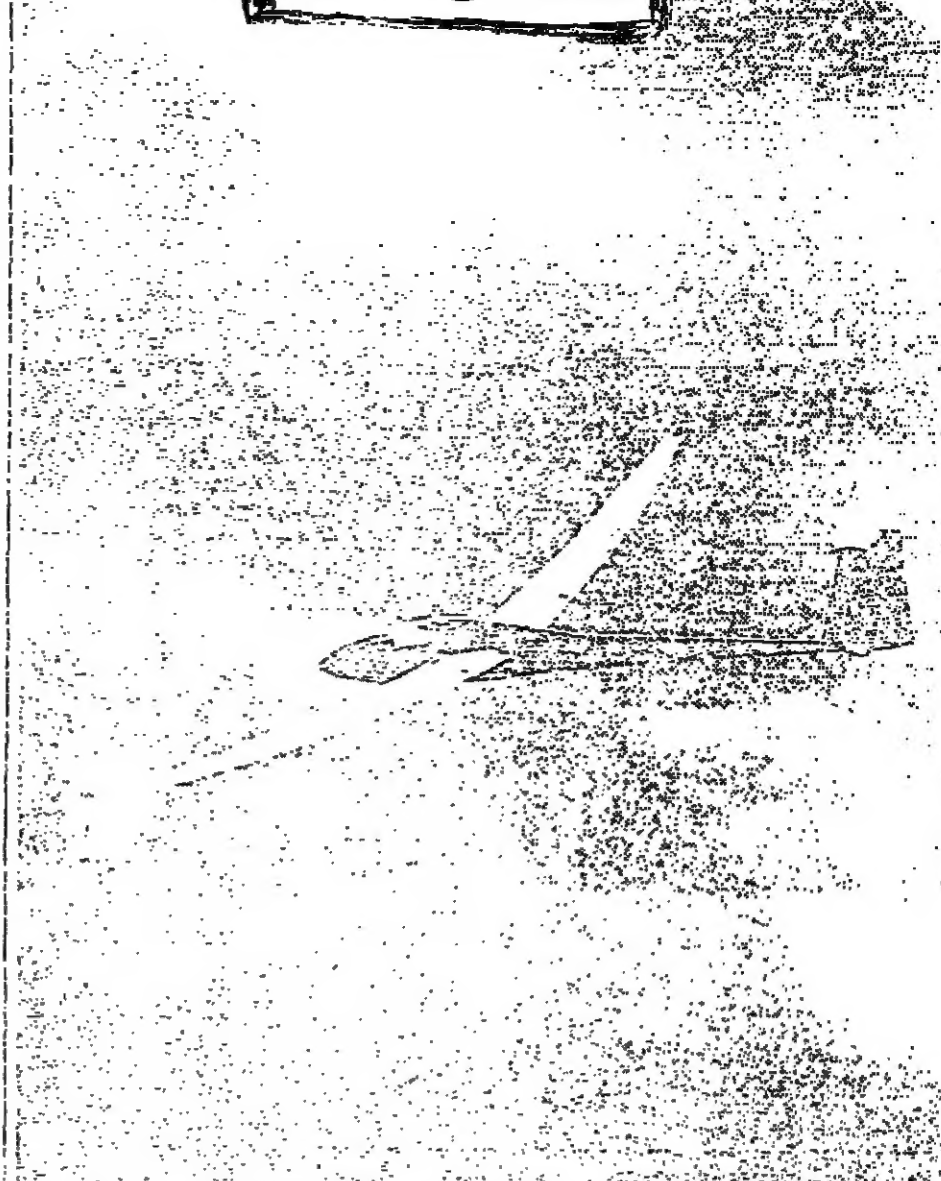
Substantial boundary changes are also proposed for the London area, including Heathrow airport, which is divided between Hounslow, Hillingdon and Surrey, and Wembley, which is part of Labour-controlled Brent and which some local people want to become part of Conservative Harrow.

The commission also says there is a need for the law to be changed to allow it to make quicker studies of high growth areas, and asks the Government to give more thought to the consequences for the size of councils of its reforms involving poll tax, education and housing.

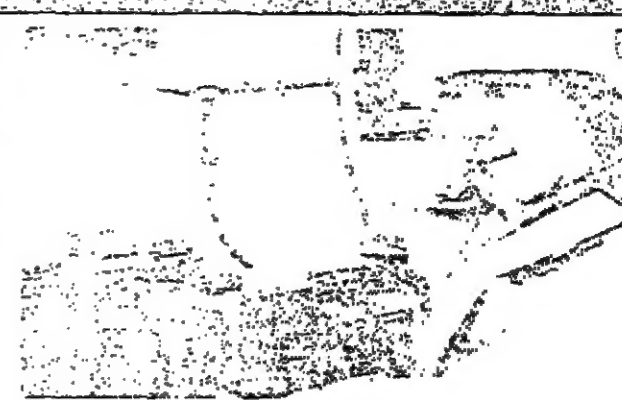
People and Places (Stationery Office: £4.50).

Alone in a stormy sky

هكذا من النحل



Wind-tup gliding in the dark August sun, a Nettle-leaf miner from Mrs Pam Hawkins (right) flies over Hampshire yesterday in practice for the national gliding championships starting tomorrow. Mrs Hawkins, aged 34, a university graduate from Ilford, Essex, is the only woman competing for the Open Class title at Lasham near Alton. Phipps photograph landmarks during the event to prove they have completed the course. (Photographs: Julian Herbert)



Food test saves a driver's licence

A cheese fondue and an apple mousse cooked by a Home Office forensic scientist enabled a man on a drink-driving charge to avoid losing his licence yesterday.

Magistrates at Abingdon, Oxfordshire, were told the Crown Prosecution Service had requested tests on the food after Mr Jean-Paul Jeral, a computer software consultant, claimed he had not been drinking. Mr Robin Cooper,

an analytical biochemist, said the tests on the dishes, cooked by Miss Heidi Zealey, a senior analyst at the Home Office forensic laboratory, showed that up to 80 per cent of the alcohol in the fondue would not have evaporated.

Mr Cooper said he calculated that the two dishes, which had been cooked with white wine, a liqueur and brandy, had added 33 units to the blood test reading, bringing the total

level of alcohol to 87 milligrams per 100 millilitres.

Mr Jeral was stopped by the police minutes after leaving the home of Mr Martin Schmidt, of Sutton Courtenay, Oxfordshire. He was arrested after failing a breathalyzer.

The magistrates agreed that Mr Jeral, of Clifton Hampden, could not have been expected to know how much alcohol was in the food. He was fined £200, with costs of £20.

Big house price rises 'may have peaked'

House price rises may have peaked after increasing by 25 per cent throughout Britain in a year, the Halifax Building Society said yesterday.

Many regions had seen prices rise by more than 40 per cent in the year to last month, with property in East Anglia rising by 55 per cent.

However, the Halifax said the August 1 deadline for the ending of double taxation for unmarried couples may have led to a big increase in the number of properties being bought, which further increased prices.

The figures were compared before the big rise in mortgage rates from about 6.75 per cent to 11.5 per cent at the end of last month. Halifax said factors should put a brake on price rises.

Prices rose by 21 per cent in London and by more than 30 per cent in the South-east. However, the so-called capital effect meant the biggest rises were being seen in regions bordering the Home Counties.

Prices in the East of England Midlands and the South-east increased by more than 40 per cent. Most of the increase was in the Midlands, which was showing rises of about 50 per cent a few months ago, and increasing by up to 60 per cent. However, the region in other northern regions still lagged behind the rest of Britain.

The Halifax house price index showed the average home costs £20,000, with new homes costing an average £23,000. The annual rise in the average was 24.1 per cent in June, compared with 15.8 per cent last December.

The rate of increase was the highest since 1979, when a rate of 29 per cent was recorded.

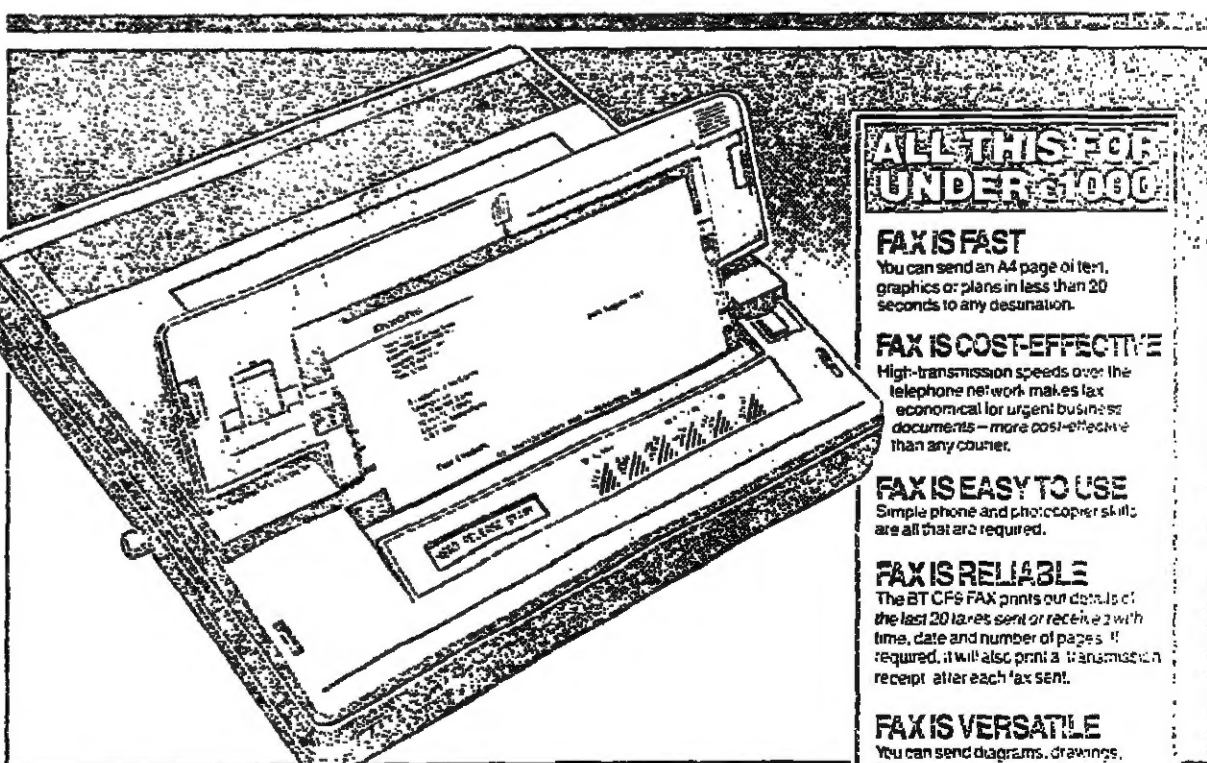
Council tenants' rent arrears have increased by nearly 50 per cent in some areas after changes in housing benefit last April, according to a report published today by the Institute of Housing.

It says claims by the Government that the rise in arrears was caused by council rent rises are not true. Surveys in Leeds showed that 59 per cent of arrears were caused by the new regulations.

Asylum plea

A former Nigerian cabinet minister wanted in Nigeria on bribery charges appeared before Bow Street magistrates at an extradition hearing yesterday. Mallam Ali Mbeke, who is seeking political asylum in Britain, was remanded on £75,000 bail until September 1.

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Mushroom taste test before buying

The Safeway stores are promoting some unusual varieties of mushrooms — with a chance to taste before buying them. Shiitake, also called forest or black mushrooms, cost £1.54 for a 4oz pack, oysters £1.12 for a 5oz pack and baby buttons 59p for a 4oz pack.

Salads are plentiful this week and there are many good buys. Hothouse tomatoes are down in price at between 25 and 45p a lb. Beef tomatoes 50-80p a lb and cherry tomatoes 60-90p a 1/2 lb. Cos and crisp lettuces are between 35-40p a head and iceberg 35-75p and English red varieties are between 40-75p a head. Crisp watercress is 30-40p a bunch and celery is between 35-55p a head.

English new crop potatoes from 9-12p a lb are a best buy and English baking potatoes at 25-35p a lb are also available. Sweet tender English carrots are 14-25p a lb, cauliflowers 35-60p each, superb courgettes 30-50p a lb and primo

cabbage are all top quality. English stick beans are 60p-£1 a lb but broad beans at 25-50p a lb are near the end of their season. English marrow are very cheap at 20-45p each and new season English leeks 50-70p a lb.

Cyprus seedless grapes and Thompson seedless and sultana grapes are good value from 50p-£1 a lb. Cyprus cardinal grapes 50-70p a lb are very sweet.

There is a superb selection of melons in the shops from 50p each. Nectarines from 10p each and peaches from 9p are abundant. Spanish Victoria plums at 50-75p a lb and French gage plums at 30-55p a lb are now available.

Home-produced lamb should be a little cheaper this weekend, particularly whole shoulder. Sainsbury's whole shoulder is down 40p a lb to 88p. The average price of whole leg is £1.91 a lb, but Tesco are selling it at £1.79 a lb and Asda at £1.49 a lb. Boned leg joints are at

between £2.80 and £3.40 a lb, but medallions are down in price to approximately £2 a lb.

Beef prices in many areas are up 1-3p a lb, but are surprisingly stable in the South-east. The average price of topside and silverside is £2.45 a lb and forehorn on the bone is £1.71 a lb. Fillet steak £5.22, rumpsteak £3.32 and boneless brisket £1.75. Beef mince at an average £1.29 a lb makes an excellent stand-by for quick meals. Pork is always good value even with the slight increases on rib and loin chops this week.

Storms at sea last weekend caused a hiccup in fresh fish supplies and prices were up early in the week, but prices and supplies should be stable by the weekend.

Herrings at 55p-£1.30 a lb, mackerel 38-90p and cod £1.60-£2.45 are all good value and lemon sole at an average £2.46 shows a drop of 13p on the average price.

Lambeth Conference: dealing with a thorny issue for African leaders

Bishops set conditions for baptism of polygamists

By Alan Wood

Polygamists and believing wives and children who wished to join the Anglican Church should be allowed to be baptised and confirmed, the Lambeth Conference decided yesterday at Canterbury.

The bishops were not making as significant a move as might appear because they were following what was already practised in some parts of Africa, as a result of approval by the dioceses, and also the 1973 decision of the Anglican Consultative Council. A century ago the 1888 Lambeth Conference took a very different view.

Yesterday's debate on the issue brought to the fore problems being faced now in Africa, involving the need to discipline those who were accepted into the Church and then took two or three or even more wives. It was pointed out that businessmen who became richer might wed several wives before seeking to join the church and accepting its gospel. Another determining

factor was the wealth of the bride.

However, yesterday's resolution set out the following clear-cut conditions that: the polygamist shall promise not to marry again as long as any of his wives at the time of his conversion are alive; the receiving of such a polygamist has the consent of the local Anglican community; such a polygamist shall not be compelled to put away any of his wives, on account of the social deprivation they would suffer.

The conference resolution on the issue that was carried also upheld monogamy as God's plan and as the ideal relationship of love between husband and wife.

The Right Rev Christopher Seaywja, Bishop of West Buganda, Uganda, successfully persuaded the conference to add to the resolution a proposal calling on provinces where the churches faced problems of polygamy to share information of their pastoral approach to Christians who become poly-

gamists, so that the most appropriate way of disciplining and advising them could be found. The Anglican Consultative Council was also requested to facilitate the sharing of information.

The resolution was moved by The Right Rev George Njaguna, Bishop of Mount Kenya South, who said his father's mother was his grandfather's fourth wife. Polygamists were a small minority. Many were old and wished to become Christians. Polygamists had been advised by some Christians to send away all their wives except one if they wanted to be accepted into full membership of the Church. If they did that the wives and children would suffer unnecessarily.

The Most Rev Manasseh Karia, Archbishop of Kenya, said past Lambeth conferences had stated that such people should be banned from becoming members of the church. Under the present resolution, such people would receive Christ and not be

forced to separate from their wives because of the social problems that would follow.

But Christians who took many wives should be disciplined because they had excommunicated themselves.

The Right Rev Akisoferi Wesonga, Bishop of Mbale, Uganda, upholding the resolution, contended the Church must have one standard; Christ was one.

The Right Rev William Rukirande, Bishop of Kigezi, Uganda, wanted the resolution to say that those already married in church, once they married a second or third wife, should be excommunicated or disciplined. He said there was the difficult problem of those already in the faith who, as they got richer, married more wives and wanted to remain in the church.

Their request to remain was questioned by Christians who wanted a real Christian marriage. However he withdrew his proposition when the conference approved the amendment on the sharing of information of disciplining.

Aids 'offers lesson in faithfulness' African 'qualified' to succeed Runcie

By Ruth Gledhill

Aids is not a punishment inflicted on homosexuals and drug addicts by God, the former Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, said yesterday.

Addressing the Lambeth Wives' Conference in Canterbury, Bishop Montefiore said the Church had almost failed to grasp the "enormous opportunity" offered by Aids to teach faithfulness and emotional commitment in relationships.

He criticized recent television advertisements about Aids that "divorced sexual activity from love and affection".

The bishop, who is former chairman of the board for social responsibility of the General Synod of the Church of England, said: "It is no good trying to get people to change

their attitudes by fear. Here is an opportunity for positive teaching about the nature of love and affection."

He said many people in the developed world still thought the transmission of Aids was predominantly via homosexuals.

"Because of that, people have said it is the result of the wrath of God against homosexual practice. This view is not possible to sustain."

"We cannot say that God sends Aids as a punishment against fornication, prostitution or drug-taking. People may behave in a very promiscuous fashion and not be affected by Aids."

"Aids may be caused by contaminated blood in the most innocent way."

"It is not always easy for us to accept that there is an element of chance in life."

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, unexpectedly speculated on his successor yesterday when he specifically mentioned the Archbishop of Central Africa, the Most Rev Walter Makhele, as a qualified candidate.

He was talking on the record to journalists in the light of Wednesday's debate at the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, which called for consultation with the other 26 Anglican primates before future Archbishops of Canterbury were appointed.

"There is a lot to be said for returning to a frequent custom in antiquity for archbishops to come from outside England", Dr Runcie said.

After suggesting that the diocese of Canterbury might be made smaller, to make the next Archbishop of Canterbury's job more manageable, he added: "I can think of a number of people, somebody like the Archbishop of Central Africa, who has been mentioned in all this speculation, and has had experience working in England. There are other people who have worked here in an English diocese."

The Archbishop of Central Africa received his theological education at the College of the Resurrection and St Andrew's College, Birmingham, and has a home in London.

One of the biggest barriers to the appointment of a non-British Archbishop of Canterbury would be the requirement that he should take an oath of loyalty to the Crown.

Dr Runcie indicated to the Lambeth Conference that he is unlikely to retire before his 70th birthday in October, 1991.



Archbishop Desmond Tutu speaking yesterday at the Lambeth conference.

Armed struggle 'last resort'

The conference adopted a statement which did not condemn those who engaged in "armed struggle," but drew attention to the dangers. Its preference was for non-violence, civil disobedience and conscientious objection and it paid tribute to those who had highlighted the growing threat of militarism.

An amendment from the Irish bishops which would have qualified their sympathy for those engaged in "just revolution," by limiting it to self-defence, was defeated.

The resolution reaffirmed the 1930 Lambeth Statement that war as a method of

settling international disputes was incompatible with the teaching and example of Christ. The bishops said that they understood those who "after exhausting all other ways, chose the way of armed struggle as the only way to justice, while drawing attention to the dangers and injustices possible in such action".

They preferred this to the original version, drawing attention to the danger of armed struggle "becoming an end in itself".

The Most Rev Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town, said that in the resolution they were not asking the

conference to condone or condemn. They were saying there were people who would state: "We have tried everything."

The churches clearly said that violence was evil — the Church's traditional position — but acknowledged that there would be circumstances when in extending the "just war" theory they would extend it to a "just revolution" situation.

The Church was not pacifist. Many churches glorified war. All they were saying in the resolution was that they understood when people said that this was the last resort.

'Too little help for digs on road sites'

By Norman Hammond
Archaeology Correspondent

The Ministry of Transport has been "quite irresponsible" in its provision for archaeological rescue work on sites to be destroyed by new roads, according to a leading archaeological society.

Professor Taurian Shaw, president of the Prehistoric Society, has called attention to what he terms the "inadequacy" of the ministry's provision and notes that it "contributed hardly anything" to rescue work on the Dorchester bypass, although the landowners, contractors, developers and English Heritage all helped.

The allegations come in Professor Shaw's introduction to a Prehistoric Society report, *Saving Our Prehistoric Heritage: Landscapes Under Threat*, which assesses the danger and proposes a five-year plan to combat it.

"The development of prehistory as a conservation issue of public concern is crucial to the future of British archaeology", the report says.

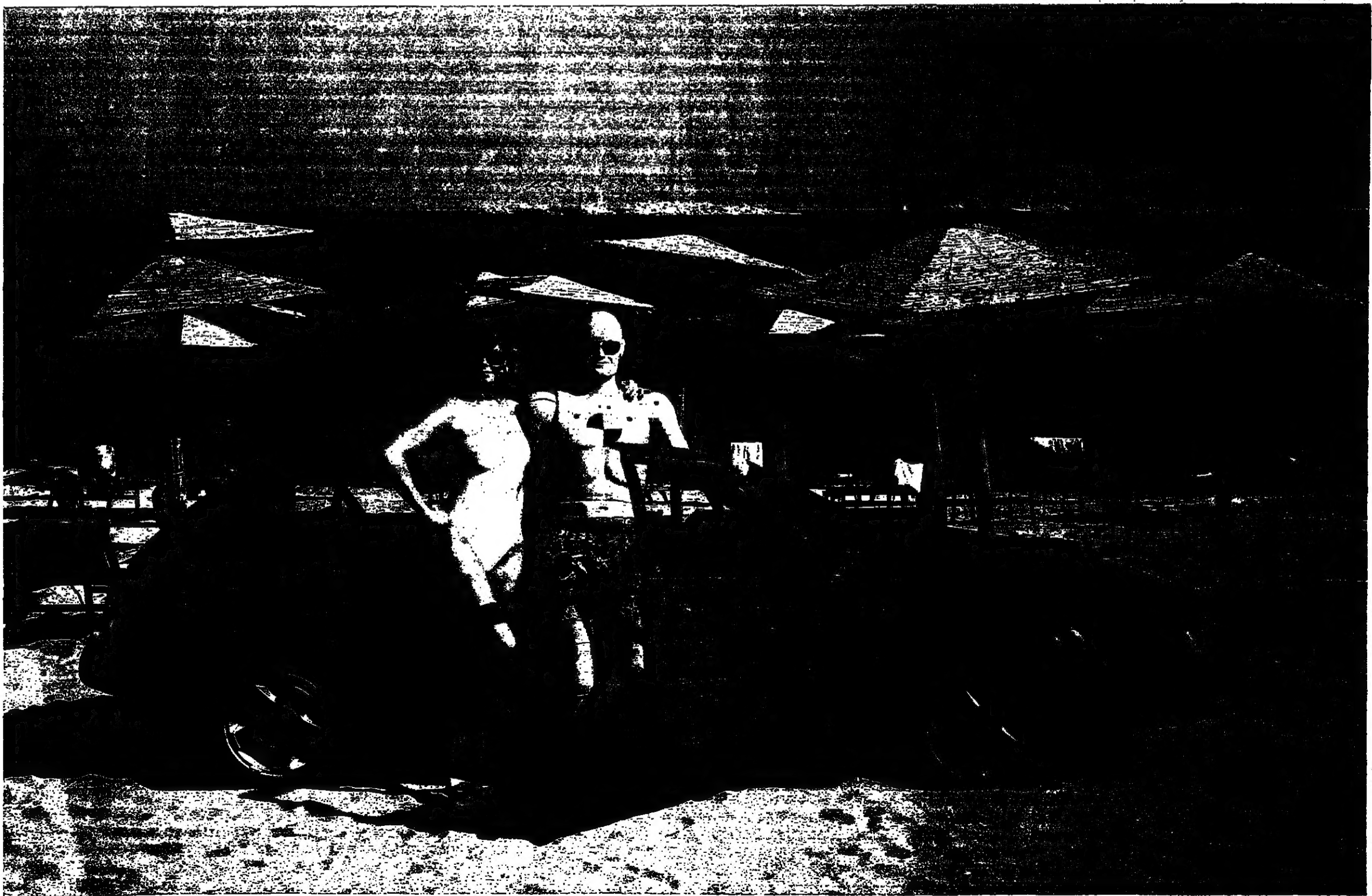
There is inadequate perception of the fact that prehistoric sites "represent the sole source of our knowledge concerning half a million years of human endeavour and achievement", and that "once destroyed or damaged this information is irreplaceable".

Agriculture and forestry, together with extractive industries such as gravel-digging and building developments, including roads, are a big threat.

The society suggests that legal and physical protection for them needs to be increased. It also suggests that the importance of maritime sites, including prehistoric shipwrecks, should be recognized by greater legal protection.

The society's document proposes arousing public awareness of both the threat to and the achievements of archaeology in the field.

Its plan includes construction of a national environmental and landscape data base, and funding especially of archaeology in upland areas, wetlands, areas with preserved land boundaries, and sites from the earliest occupation of Britain more than 100,000 years ago.



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Hong Kong's silent majority defy call to consult

From Chris Pomeroy
Hong Kong

The television advertisement shows a middle class couple with two fat-cheeked children against a blue sky harbour backdrop. The slogan is couched in the imperative: "Get Involved. Get to Know the Basic Law."

Yet midway through the summer long consultation exercise to weigh public feeling on how China is drafting Hong Kong's post-1997 Constitution, only 800 submissions have been received. Leaders on the China appointed consultation committee think the response is rather encouraging.

"Eight hundred so far is acceptable," said Mr Shiu Sin-Por, deputy Secretary-General of the Consultative Committee for the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China, abbreviated less breathlessly to BLPC. "No Constitution has ever been drafted in such a manner with such consultation," he adds.

Despite the document's manifest

importance, few people in Hong Kong can get excited about public consultation any more. "The silent majority have become so silent and so large," observes Mr Joseph Cheng, lecturer in government and public administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "Opinion is very much divided, which allows Peking and London to do very much what they want."

The political map has changed radically in the four years since Britain and China signed the Joint Declaration, the diplomatic agreement formalizing the transfer of sovereignty in 1997. Under the pressures of change and transition, political consensus has evaporated and political differences are often open and heated. To fill the breach, both the Hong Kong Government and Chinese officials have developed a new logic to the consultation process.

In the late 1970s, Hong Kong's non-elected Government turned public consultation into something of an art form. It pushed out policy position papers, clipped local newspapers, sounded out the

importance, few people in Hong Kong can get excited about public consultation any more. "The silent majority have become so silent and so large," observes Mr Joseph Cheng, lecturer in government and public administration at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "Opinion is very much divided, which allows Peking and London to do very much what they want."

Since 1984 the wind has blown, increasingly strongly, from the north and the public consultation process has metamorphosed to deal with what the civil service politicians call "actual conditions".

Earlier this year the Hong Kong Government held its most important consultation exercise to date: how quickly should Hong Kong move towards the democratic system of representative government as promised in the Joint Declaration?

In 1984, when Britain and China were still stitching up their diplomatic transfer deal for 1997, a Government White Paper noted that most people wanted universal franchise elections to the legislature to begin in 1988. China voiced loud disapproval. Britain took a pace back. "Convergence", ensuring changes in the run-up to 1997 did not pre-empt China's plans,

became the buzz word. This spring the Government concluded, after consultation and opinion polls, that public opinion was not unanimous and postponed partial elections until 1991, one year after China's draft Basic Law will be completed.

Professional pollsters criticized the Government's opinion polls for obscuring the key question of the 1988 date. One appointed legislator asked why the Government tried to "camouflage its retreat" from a commitment to democracy. "The Hong Kong Government badly needs some kind of fig leaf to demonstrate its policy has the support of the public," Mr Cheng commented. "These incidents very considerably damaged the Government's sincerity in soliciting the public's view."

The BLPC secretariat appears to have refined colonial policy making procedures. As it does not recognize Hong Kong's elected municipal board, or the largely appointed legislature, members can only speak in a private capacity. No referendum or opinion

poll will be taken on China's draft Constitution. "It would not provide a balance," claims Mr Shiu.

"Polling techniques are only valid for a short period of time for finding out television habits or consumer preferences. Our law has 172 Articles and will take five years to draft, so a polling of opinion in three weeks on certain issues would not be very useful."

Meanwhile, a draft Constitution is already shrouded in controversy. Critics claim Hong Kong's judicial independence after 1997 is in doubt and the common law may be stymied by constitutional challenges. The relationship between China's central Government and the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government appears weighted in Peking's favour. Key civil rights, supposedly guaranteed in the Joint Declaration, are included only as locally enacted legislation capable of repeal at any time.

"Perhaps the best way to understand the real politics of the Basic Law is to read it backwards."

comments Mr Denis Chang, QC, former head of the Bar Association, highlighting dissent over the first post-1997 Administration. Where the Joint Declaration promised an elected legislature, China, backed by a strong local business caucus, inclines towards a strong executive and weaker legislature mainly appointed by a special selection committee.

Despite the evaporating consensus, there is a heavy irony in the low response to the BLPC. A similar exercise when the Joint Declaration was unveiled in 1984 attracted barely 1,800 submissions as Britain had warned Hong Kong the deal could not be redrafted.

The BLPC's Mr Shiu insists there are still two more years to go before the Basic Law draft will be completed. Mr Cheng disagrees. "Peking's sincerity in consultation is certainly in doubt. People believe their views will not be seriously considered. If these are different from the vital interests of Peking and London we still will not get what we want."

Swedish leader denies Palme claims

From Christopher Mosey
Stockholm

Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish Prime Minister, yesterday confidently faced the toughest test of his political career when he testified before a public hearing on his Government's role in setting up a private inquiry into the assassination of his predecessor, Olof Palme.

Mr Carlsson denied that the Government had sanctioned the investigation by the socialist book publisher. Mr Ebbe Carlsson.

He said he found suggestions that he had anything to hide concerning the investigation "deeply insulting", pointing out his close relationship with Mr Palme and his trust in Sweden's democratic systems. Mr Carlsson, speaking before the standing committee on the Constitution, a watchdog on power abuse that is known locally, with some hyperbole, as a Swedish equivalent of the US Senate hearings, hit back at his critics.

"I sanctioned nothing illegal," he said. "I don't see how we Social Democrats can be accused of being less concerned than others at seeing that justice is seen to be done in this country."

He promised that whoever was responsible for smuggling into Sweden illegal telephone tapping equipment as part of Mr Ebbe Carlsson's investigation would be brought to justice.

There could be no defence for such an act. Mr Carlsson had asked to appear before the committee and obviously hoped that his performance, broadcast live on national television, would remove the "Ebbe Carlsson affair", as it is known here, as an issue in next month's general election.

He again staunchly defended Mrs Anna-Greta Leijon, the former Justice Minister, but criticized her for writing an introductory letter for Mr Ebbe Carlsson.

Mrs Leijon, who was forced to resign over the Ebbe Carlsson affair in June, also appeared before the committee yesterday, firmly denying that she sanctioned the investigation.

However, she admitted that she had made a mistake in writing the introductory letter, but said that she had paid for this with her resignation.

Ministers highlight failure of South African sanctions

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

The combined effect of Commonwealth, EEC and United Nations measures has been to reduce South African exports to participating countries by 7 per cent, according to a report by a committee of foreign ministers, which met without British participation in Toronto to discuss South Africa.

Australia, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and the United States reduced their combined imports from \$3.39 billion (£1.99 billion) in 1985 to \$2.18 billion in 1987.

But the lost trade for South Africa was partly made up by other countries. Italy, Japan, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey and West Germany were among countries which imported more during the same period. Japan increased the value of its imports by 44 per cent. The increase was worth \$748 million. "We now know who is financing apartheid," Mr Luke Mwanashiku, the Zambian Foreign Minister, said. "Now we can attempt to persuade them not to."

Mr Joe Clark, the Canadian External Affairs Minister, added: "We are going to be speaking to a range of countries to have them follow the leads the Commonwealth has taken. Existing sanctions are not biting enough. We have to tighten them."

But the meeting failed to adopt significant additional sanctions, despite statements by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr Shridath Ramphal, that it had a responsibility to keep the Commonwealth in the vanguard against apartheid.

The ministers agreed to press for an international ban on buying South African coal, the second largest export after diamonds. But it was in no position to make such a ban effective, because Britain and West Germany have argued against it and Japan is the largest importer.

Other measures adopted included stricter Customs scrutiny, more thorough investigations of sanctions violations, and heavier penalties for those violating sanctions. The ministers said they would study the possibility of widening existing sanctions on agricultural products. They would

also ask financial institutions not to increase trade financing to South Africa, and press Governments to prohibit new trade financing to South Africa.

Further evidence of the ineffectiveness of sanctions emerged at the Toronto meeting from an Oslo-based monitoring group. Mr Abdul Minty, director of the World Campaign Against Military and Nuclear Collaboration with South Africa, said that, despite an international arms embargo South Africa was able to buy most of the weapons it needed abroad, with the exception of fighter planes. These purchases now probably exceeded the \$366 million it spent abroad on arms in 1983, he said.

The Commonwealth's first attempt to show that it can be effective even without British co-operation now seems to have achieved the opposite.

Geneva talks progress

Geneva - Negotiations here on a south-western Africa settlement have been extended today, with indications of some progress (Alan McGregor writes). No trace remains, it seems, of the indignation voiced by the Angolans and Cubans on Wednesday at South Africa's "tactics" in making public details of the proposal tabled by its delegation here on Tuesday.

Yesterday experts were discussing how the 14 principles for a settlement, agreed last month in New York, may be translated into treaty language. The Angolan-Cuban delegation has meanwhile put forward its own proposal, resembling the South African one, at least on troop withdrawals.

The Toronto meeting unintentionally demonstrated its irrelevance, in the view of observers. Its cautious and vague final statement is unlikely to alarm Pretoria, and barely managed to paper over differences between developed and developing nations.

As the ministers dispersed yesterday there was quiet satisfaction among Whitehall officials. Britain, which has never before boycotted a Commonwealth group, strongly opposed the formation of the committee but was outvoted at the heads of government conference in Vancouver last October.

Britain, which is South Africa's largest Commonwealth trading partner, mostly implements existing sanctions but refuses to approve new ones.

The Commonwealth committee consists of ministers from Canada, Australia, India, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Nigeria and Guyana, but was set up with the approval of all 48 countries except Britain.

Bishops' plea: A call to the South African Government to review its legislation on conscientious objection was carried yesterday by Anglican bishops attending the Lambeth conference being held in Canterbury.

Whites cry freedom, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Test of faith in the Jordan



An American member of the congregation of Mr Jimmy Swaggart, the television evangelist who recently was disgraced, being baptized in the Jordan.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Tehran resumes tanker attacks

Gunboats yesterday fired at a Norwegian supertanker in the Gulf, the first apparent breach of an undertaking given by Iran to suspend shipping attacks while peace talks continue at the United Nations (Andrew McEwen writes).

But neither the US Government nor local shipping experts interpreted the incident as a resumption of the "tanker war". Mr Vernon Walters, the US Ambassador to the UN, described it as "a case of excessive zeal by a local commander" and expressed optimism that a ceasefire between Iran and Iraq would be achieved.

The 284,505-tonne Berge Lord, bound for Rotterdam with a cargo of crude oil from the Saudi Arabian terminal at Ras Tanurah, was attacked by about six gunboats but no one was hurt. In another raid yesterday, Iraqi jets bombed oil centres 60 miles inside south-western Iran.

BAGHDAD: Iraq denied that its warplanes had dropped chemical bombs on an Iranian town (Reuters reports). The Iranian news agency had earlier said that the number of toxic gas casualties had risen to 1,700 after bombs were dropped by Iraqi jets on the Kurdish town of Oshnavieh.

Fire threatens resort

Belgrade (Reuters) - Aircraft and soldiers fought a forest and brush fire yesterday as it threatened to engulf the Yugoslav resort of Sibenik. Local radio called on citizens to join fire-fighting forces. About 100,000 tourists are in the area. One hotel official said the fire was about three miles away, and that they were prepared to evacuate holidaymakers.

TARRAGONA: More than 1,000 fire-fighters were called in early yesterday to tackle forest fires which have forced the evacuation of 7,000 people in this Spanish region.

Deal on Contra aid

Washington - Democrats in the Congress, after days of haggling, have agreed a compromise for humanitarian assistance to the Nicaraguan Contras, with military assistance specifically excluded except under narrowly restricted circumstances (Christopher Thomas writes).

The deal means that Governor Michael Dukakis, the Democratic presidential candidate, and Senator Lloyd Bentsen, his conservative running mate, will be able to avoid highlighting their sharp and potentially embarrassing differences over assistance for the Nicaraguan rebels.

One-child rule eased

Peking (AFP) - Peasants in most of China's provinces are now allowed to have a second child - but only if the first is a girl, a Family Planning Commission spokesman said yesterday. The second child must not be born within four years of the first, and if a girl, the family cannot have a third. China, the world's most populous country with about 1.1 billion people, introduced the one-child rule in 1978. But the policy has been far from successful among the country's 800 million peasants, many of whom ignore it.

Another shuttle delay

Washington - A critical test firing of the main engines of the space shuttle Discovery was aborted yesterday because of technical problems a split second before the exercise was due to begin (Mohsin Ali writes). NASA has been struggling to get the manned space programme back on track after the Challenger shuttle disaster in 1986.

NASA said a computer reported a valve problem and shut off the engines just before they were to ignite at Cape Canaveral in Florida - the fifth engine test postponement in two weeks. Another attempt may be made on Sunday morning.

Legacy of the Greenpeace bombing haunts Rocard

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

In a curious twist of fate, the Rainbow Warrior scandal is again haunting a Socialist Government in France. At the centre of events this time is Alain Mafart, one of the two secret service agents convicted of blowing up the Greenpeace flagship in July, 1985, on the orders of the previous Socialist administration.

For the past fortnight in Paris, a senior official from New Zealand has been striving to persuade the new Government of M Michel Rocard to send Mafart back to the South Pacific atoll of Hao to complete the sentence he was meant to serve there.

According to sources on both sides, the high-level talks have been "extremely delicate" and an acceptable solution to the problem that has bedevilled relations between the countries is not in sight.

The repatriation of Mafart, who then held the rank of major, on questionable medical grounds last November to boost the presidential election campaign of M Jacques Chirac, then Prime Minister, outraged New Zealand. The departure of the other saboteur on Hao, Dominique Prieur, for Paris a few months later, officially because of her pregnancy, added fuel to the fire.

The authorities in Wellington insist that France cynically flouted the terms of the UN-sponsored agreement under which the two agents would be

held on Hao until June, 1989, unless both the governments agreed to their being moved. M Rocard appeared to take a similar view, denouncing M Chirac for "violating the promise France had given to New Zealand".

But today the same Greenpeace albatross is hanging around M Rocard's neck. With Wellington apparently resigned to "losing" Prieur, now five months pregnant, there is the greater determination to get Mafart back on Hao.

According to insiders, M Rocard - who, unlike M Chirac, gets on well with Mr David Lange, his opposite number in New Zealand - is ready to send Mafart packing.



Alain Mafart: Wrangle over returning him to atoll.

Le Monde reported that at a recent meeting between the two men, M Rocard spoke eloquently about the "honour of France" being at stake.

No such concerns are apparent, however, at the French Ministry of Defence, where there is said to be total opposition to giving way to pressure from Wellington.

Public opinion - as M Rocard well knows - was heavily in favour of M Chirac's unilateral decision to bring home the two agents. The French may have short political memories, but would they stomach a decision to "sacrifice" the loyal soldier Mafart a second time?

Holding the ring at the moment - with no great enthusiasm, one hears - is M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister. A skilful negotiator, he is said to be trying hard to convince the New Zealanders of the difficulties facing the present administration without offending Mr Lange's understandable concern over his country's dignity.

The latest leak from the Quai d'Orsay suggests that M Dumas may be en route for New Zealand with some "favourable commercial proposals". If Wellington evinces what sources here call "a certain understanding" about the Mafart affair, France will play ball at the EEC over the thorny issue of New Zealand's agricultural imports.

Reshuffle in Tunisia Ben Ali sheds old guard

From Susan MacDonald, Tunis

The former President of Tunisia, Mr Habib Bourguiba, celebrated his 85th birthday this week without the pomp and ceremony that has surrounded the occasion for the last 30 years.

Mr Bourguiba - who, it is thought, could be a few years older than officially conceded - spent Wednesday quietly outside Tunis in the confines of the Mornag Palace. It has been placed at his disposal since he was removed from power last November - "like an over-ripe fruit" as one Tunisian commentator put it - while the man who took over as head of state, President Zine Ben Ali, continues to uncoil the rusty machinery that he inherited from the Bourguiba regime.

With much fanfare, the Tunisian press has been heralding the events of the past week - including a big government reshuffle and a high-profile conference of the ruling party - as the beginning of a new democratic era. But to scratch beneath the surface shows how carefully President Ben Ali is proceeding along his democratic road.

The reshuffle, announced on the eve of the national party congress, is designed to reinforce the power of the President's own men while some of the old guard are gradually eased out. Three of the top men now are former Army generals: the President, the new Foreign Minister, Mr

Abdelhamid Escheikh; and the Interior Minister, Mr Habib Ammar.

An opening towards outside forces is shown by the appointment of two non-party ministers: Professor Saadine Zmerli as Minister of Health, and Mr Habib Boulares, a writer, as the new Culture Minister. The professor was president of the Tunisian Human Rights League, an organization persecuted under the Bourguiba regime.

Mr Ben Ali presided with his Prime Minister, Mr Hedi Baccouche, at the three days of soul-searching in the wilting heat among the vast gathering of the newly named Constitutional Democratic Rally party. The difference in style from the old days was immediately apparent. The two men appeared like chairman and managing director at a large shareholders' meeting. With protocol swept aside, they ploughed through the business of facing up to past mistakes and looking to the future.

However, despite assurances that he is President of all Tunisians, Mr Ben Ali made it clear that he will not, as some had hoped, separate his presidential role from that of head of the ruling party. Nor will he as yet fulfil his promise of last November to hold national elections in the near future. Instead, the President will make do with partial legislative elections, involving some 35 parliamentary seats, probably early next year. The present legislative term does not end until 1991, but the National Assembly is composed entirely of ruling party deputies, elected under fraudulent conditions in 1986.

Mr Ben Ali has launched the idea of a debate on a national pact for governing Tunisia at which all political and trade union organizations have been invited to participate. If discreet negotiations now taking place with the outlawed Islamic Fundamentalist Party (MTI) are successful, they too would be included.

The MTI, with a wide grassroots following, was the main threat in the last years of the Bourguiba regime. Its continued ability to preach against the regime in the mosques and organize public demonstrations - despite the hunting down and imprisonment of its leaders - proved its strength.

Now President Ben Ali has released the so-called moderate leaders in an attempt to bring them into the fold, while retaining those belonging to a military MTI wing. Positive changes have yet to be translated into reality. Unemployment and rising prices remain the over-riding problems. Western observers feel that if the reforms are to filter through, the President must dismantle Tunisia's crippling bureaucracy and change the conditioned mentality of those in charge.

Hollywood cameras set to roll again as strike ends

From Ivar Davis
Los Angeles

Hollywood is breathing a sigh of relief as one of its longest and most bitter strikes, which crippled the town and brought the film community to its knees, appears to be over.

After 150 days of on-again off-again negotiations, the Writers' Guild of America has finally reached a tentative agreement with the town's film producers to end a strike that had cost them millions of dollars in lost assignments.

During the bitter battle Hollywood was paralysed, actors sat idly by, and producers and writers were at each others' throats.

The 9,000-strong guild is expected to ratify the deal over the weekend

and to be back at the film studios on Monday. The writers' walkout affected more than 200 film and TV producers, and led to the layoff of more than 20,000 employees in Hollywood, causing financial hardship to thousands of others.

It also forced the leading American TV networks, which produce shows such as *Dynasty*, *Dallas* and *Moonlighting*, to push back the start of their new season two to three months.

When the agreement is ratified by members - and that appears certain - Hollywood will again get into full gear to begin a new boom in film and TV production and catch up on time lost. Leading stars such as Peter Falk, Lou Gossett and Burt Reynolds

have been waiting for scripts to start their new shows.

The end of the strike came with such suddenness that even Hollywood was taken by surprise. Last week marathon talks had ended in deadlock again and the future looked bleak for a town that survives on the film and TV industry. The break-through came after an all-night bargaining session which resolved the seemingly intractable dispute over residuals to writers for shows sold overseas, which had been the biggest stumbling block.

Many striking writers believe they will not benefit as much as they had hoped when the strike began on March 7. One said: "We've lost a fortune over the past five months,

but sometimes you have to stand your ground on a matter of principle... this was a costly time for us, but if we had held out much longer it might have killed us all."

Brian Walton, the British-born chief writers' negotiator, said that the new contract was "enormously better than the one the producers had originally offered."

At a press conference after news of the settlement had been made public, he admitted that he expected some members to feel "some disappointment" with the deal after their long strike. "There were a lot of human reasons in the negotiators' decision (to settle)."

The time was right to make a deal," he said. But to the millions

deprived of their favourite shows, the final agreement probably means very little.

Under the current system, a writer's residual for a one-hour show is about \$16,000 (£9,400). Under the new system it could be as low as half that for a show with weak syndicated sales, or 50 per cent more for a hit.

On the expanding market for residuals, shows sold to foreign countries, writers won the right to choose during the contract life between the current system - which pays up to \$4,400 for a one-hour show - or a new formula which would pay 1.2 per cent of foreign sales as long as that was not less than 85 per cent or more than 130 per cent of the current residual fee.

Warning shots fired as wave of protest meets Burma curbs

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Burmese soldiers fired warning shots to control thousands of protesters in Rangoon yesterday, just 24 hours after the imposition of martial law. Thousands gathered to protest against restrictions on freedom and a worsening in living standards, according to Western diplomats in the Burmese capital.

No casualties were reported but few details of the protests have yet filtered through the strict censorship.

The state radio broadcast announcements warning the public that martial law was in force and would remain so for an indefinite period. Effective action would be taken to prevent disturbances, the radio said.

The protests are directed at Burma's one-party political system and particularly at the new national leader, U Sein Lwin, the former general who has been in power for only one week. There were reports of the unrest spreading to other areas. Anti-government rallies have been reported in Mandalay, Moulmein and other urban areas.

A diplomat who witnessed yesterday's protests in Rangoon said there were about

10,000 in one group of demonstrators. They held up traffic near the Sula Pagoda in the city centre but dispersed after soldiers fired into the air. The Army appeared to be out in force, he said.

Many of the people on the streets were students, he said, but people of all ages had joined the protest. However, many citizens stood on the pavement, apparently too scared to step into the roadway with the demonstrators, he added.

Martial law has not been applied in Rangoon for 14 years. The authorities said it was enforced because local security units could not control the situation. It was probably also prompted by the nationwide strike and other protests planned for next Monday.

Universities and other places of higher education have been closed by the authorities for six weeks.

Diplomats say that if the campuses were open now a revolution might be inevitable.

Martial law has been in force in Prome, north of Rangoon, for three weeks.

The Government said the

situation there was out of control.

General Ne Win, the former leader, resigned two weeks ago after 26 years in power and was succeeded by his security chief, U Sein Lwin, aged 64.

His appointment immediately increased already serious civil unrest. He is chiefly blamed for years of repression and for the deaths of more than 200 people in riots in March and June.

The riot police, who are under his direct control, have been accused of raping, torturing and killing detainees. Their brutality has earned them the hatred of the Army and caused divisions within the previous Government.

U Sein Lwin's decision to use the Army in this martial law operation will be a severe test of its loyalty to the new regime.

The state radio yesterday denied reports in some Western newspapers that U Sein Lwin was wounded in an attempt on his life last Friday. A few hours after the alleged assassination attempt security police arrested 11 prominent men who are being held for activities allegedly detrimental to the nation.

Happy landing for seaman



A Filipino seaman being helped from a helicopter in Fremantle, Western Australia, on his way to hospital after 29 days adrift on a life raft. He and five fellow crew survived on a biscuit and half a glass of water each a day, after their ship, the Singasi, broke up in heavy seas.

Malaysia power struggle

Mahathir survives but rivals prepare new poll offensive

From Gavin Bell, Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Malaysian Prime Minister, has survived a bruising battle with political rivals and recalcitrant senior judges. But the power struggle is far from over and his opponents are massing for another attack in an important by-election this month.

The outcome will be crucial to Dr Mahathir's political future, and to the stability of the multiracial society he has governed with a firm hand for seven years.

The Prime Minister's troubles began last year when he faced an unprecedented challenge for the leadership of the ruling United Malays National Organisation from his then Trade and Industry Minister, Mr Razaleigh Hamzah. He won that contest by a narrow margin, but in February the party was declared illegal by the High Court on the ground that some of its branches were not properly registered.

Since then Dr Mahathir has reconstituted the organization by the simple expedient of adding the suffix Baru (new), but his leadership is being contested in the courts and at the polls. The embroglio has involved the suspension of the head of the Supreme Court and five of his colleagues for alleged "misbehaviour", the arrests of more than 40 dissidents, and discord between King Mahmood Iskandar and the state sultans from among whom he was elected for a five-year term.

The King, who is also the Sultan of Johore, is accused of being prominent in moves to subvert the judges' alleged political bias against the Government, and some of his brother sultans do not like this.

In a country where rumours are deemed to be true until proved otherwise, there have been persistent reports that some of the hereditary rulers have been agitating for the King to abdicate and emergency rule to be declared.

Neither seems likely, but the conflict has destroyed Malaysia's traditions of political compromise and of absolute loyalty to the chief. As a result, the danger of strife transcends politics and raises the spectre of racial tensions between the predominant Malay community and the minority Chinese and Indians.

Dr Mahathir has acted firmly to stifle dissent and to

reconstitute Malay political power under his new party banner, with limited success.

In the process, he has drawn criticism from international human rights and judicial organizations. A prominent critic is Mr Param Cumaraswamy, the immediate past president of Malaysia's Bar Council. "As a result of this rampage against the courts, we no longer have an independent judiciary," he said. "I think what we'll end up having is regime judges, a judiciary made to measure."

The essence of the complex struggle for power is that it is no more than that. There appears to be no significant differences over ideologies or policies. It is purely an issue of personal rivalry.

But there is considerably more at stake than Dr Mahathir's future. At risk is the ruling party itself, which is a moderate national movement, rather than just a political party. A permanent split would inevitably break it up into contentious factions and

Bangkok — General Chulchai Chomhavan, one of Thailand's most experienced politicians, was appointed Prime Minister last night, the first elected MP to hold the post for 12 years (Neil Kelly writes).

He was senior Deputy Prime Minister in the last Government. General Chulchai said he hoped to form a new coalition, which would include representatives of six parties, in the next day or two.

open the door to left-wing groups and racial and religious extremists.

The turmoil is viewed with concern in neighbouring Singapore, where an analyst said: "We are worried about events in Malaysia, since we depend on a stable government and a strong economy north of the causeway. Our interests are served by the continuing rule of Umno with moderate leaders at the helm, and a united Malay population behind them."

The political uncertainty has not so far affected the Malaysian economy, which is recovering from a recession in 1985. Gross domestic product is expected to grow by more than 6 per cent this year, compared with 4.7 per cent last year, putting the country back on track for its goal of becoming a newly industrialized economy by the end of the century.

The first important electoral test for Dr Mahathir's new party is on August 25 in Johore Bahru, capital of the southern Johore state. Mr Shaharir Samad, the former Welfare Minister and an outspoken critic of the Prime Minister, forced the by-election by resigning the seat which he has held for three terms. He will now contest it as an independent.

He said this week it would be the first of a series of attempts to wrest power from Dr Mahathir. "The by-election is the only avenue left for bringing about change. It is just the first step, it will be followed by elections in other constituencies."



Dr Mahathir: Acted firmly to stifle dissent.

Chile deals blow to envoys' immunity

From A Correspondent, Santiago

The Chilean Supreme Court has ruled that two West German diplomats may be investigated in a criminal suit, arousing fears in embassies here that their diplomatic immunity may be in jeopardy.

The nation's highest court said that Herr Hans Ulrich Spohn and Herr Horst Krieger of the West German Consulate may be tried for "violating the rights of privacy" of a German resident living in the Colonia Dignidad community in the southern town of Parí.

The ruling brought near unanimous condemnation from foreign diplomats.

The West German Embassy sent a strongly worded protest note to the Chilean Government, expressing concern over the ruling, which "contradicts the Vienna Convention of 1961 guaranteeing diplomats immunity from prosecution."

"The objective is to know whether the Chilean Government is going to respect international law or not," Herr Dieter Haller, the West German Consul, said. "Any limits on our freedom to complete our work will be unfavourable to our relations." The Chilean Government assured the diplomatic corps in statements released to the press that Chile will abide by the Vienna Convention, but the court ruling effectively exposes foreign diplomats to prosecution.

On Tuesday about all the ambassadors accredited in Santiago met at the Papal Nuncio's office in the city to discuss the situation. The Germans have asked the

United Nations to look into the matter.

Sources in the British Embassy said the case sets a precedent which hypothetically exposes all diplomats to possible prosecution by Chilean courts. Other diplomats hinted that the issue could develop into a conflict with the Chilean Government.

"Diplomatic immunity allows our mission here to be completed, and I do not believe any state would accept the loss of that immunity," the French Ambassador, M François Mouton, said.

The conflict stems from the West German Government's investigation last May of the secretive Colonia Dignidad community in Parí. A delegation from the Embassy went to the colony to investigate reports of torture, sexual abuse and kidnapping against some of the 300 residents of the community who are German citizens.

Numerous ex-residents have described the mysterious camp-style relic from the Nazi era whose leader, Herr Paul Schaffer, holds members there against their will. According to Amnesty International and other human rights organizations the Chilean secret police also used the colony as a torture centre.

Herr Spohn and Herr Krieger are accused by the family of one colonist, Herr Jürgen Szargelles, after the diplomats inquired into his escape from the colony. The family say the inquiries violated their privacy.

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Militant Hindu killed in hospital

Credit account

Miami (AP) — A couple arrested and falsely accused by a department store in Florida of shoplifting were awarded \$2.25 million (£1.32 million) damages by a jury.

Mr Richard Murphy, the US Assistant Secretary of State, accompanied by bodyguards, yesterday leaving the house of Dr Salim al-Hoss, Lebanon's acting Prime Minister. Mr Murphy arrived in Beirut unexpectedly after two days of Middle East peace talks in Geneva.

There is no car insurance in Lebanon and most car theft victims still report the loss of their vehicles — if only to avoid arrest if they are used as car bombs. Beirut continues in this crippled fashion with few friends. "No-one has asked to be twinned with Beirut yet," Mr Samaha said. But he was laughing.


10

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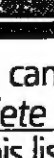
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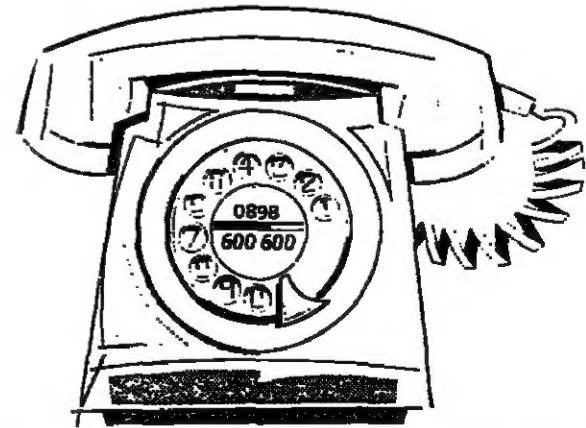
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SPECTRUM

Thrown by the rubbish heap

The streets of our cities are paved with rubbish despite the Litter Act, passed 30 years ago on Sunday. Tom Bower wonders why we seem to be incapable of keeping Britain tidy

Among the unannounced benefits for future tourists speeding towards Paddington station from Heathrow airport on the proposed fast rail link will be a delayed introduction to the most rubbish-infested streets of Europe. The foreigners' respite will be temporary. London's streets, they will discover, like most British cities, are pockmarked by discarded newspapers, cigarette and sweet wrappers, dogs' excrement, mounds of split plastic bags dumped by shop owners, and the colourful debris of fast-food chains.

If by chance they talk to Ekanah Bissick, a 56-year-old Jamaican who has spent six years pushing a broom along the gutters in Soho, they will hear an exasperated explanation for the plague: "Throwing everything on to the streets is the way of life in England."

Although it is 30 years since the first legislation to punish litterers was passed by Parliament, conditions have indisputably worsened. Few complainants, however, blame the law, despite its obvious inadequacies. Rather, the responsibility for the filth is levelled at the failure of the police, local councils, and politicians. In turn, they blame British society's refusal to condemn the offenders as criminals. "Persuasion rather than law enforcement," the Home Office minister told Parliament, "is the solution". His answer reflected the Prime Minister's opinion that a change of society's attitudes rather than rigorous enforcement of laws is the exclusive panacea.

Two years ago, Mrs Thatcher publicly joined the sufferers and protesters. On her return from Jerusalem, the Prime Minister's Press office expostulated that she had found her drive from Heathrow to be a stomach-wrenching experience. Her instant solution was the appointment of Richard Branson to head UK2000, which was supposedly entrusted with the task of cleaning up Britain. Ever since, the tycoon has protested that, despite the hype, his real chore was to create employment, not to supplement the work of local councils. Yet for the first

time in recent history, public hygiene was no longer an issue reserved exclusively for cranks. "What has been so frustrating for us," comments Professor Graham Ashworth, the director general of the Tidy Britain Group (formerly Keep Britain Tidy), "is the lack of proper information about the subject. Because the rest of Europe does not behave like us, they have never had to find out why people are so resolutely dirty outside their homes."

Ashworth's assumptions go to the heart of the argument: Britain generally, compared with the rest of Europe, is arguably not very clean. Graffiti, vandalism, and shoddy workmanship are peculiarly British diseases which many suspect bear a direct relationship to littered streets. Symptomatically, dustmen in Britain are at the bottom of the social scale.

Britain enjoys the highest junk food consumption in Europe. Implicitly, those consumers reveal less interest in their personal health and are therefore less likely to care about cleanliness — hence the polystyrene packs on the pavements.

For many, the fast-food industry is the most evident villain but, not surprisingly, the industry itself is aggressively defensive: "We don't create the litter, it's the public," says Corryne Reed, the spokeswoman for McDonald's. The company does acknowledge that pavements strewn with cast-off McDonald's boxes are a "negative image". To remove that blot, McDonald's outlets dispatch "trash walkers", although their hunt is limited to the immediate vicinity and is exclusively concentrated on their own wrappers. Reed is coy about McDonald's expenditure on litter collection: "We don't need to throw out the amount we spend."

Julian Cockpock of Kentucky Fried Chicken was once more amenable: "We're doing a lot," he insists. His company has sponsored a litter campaign with prizes worth £2,000 — a limited but strategic investment for a business which enjoyed a £90 million turnover last year.

The new industry has, however, created a strange paradox. Unilaterally, the fast-food shops have



A load of old rubbish: Piccadilly Circus, one of London's most famous sites, with a coating of empty cans and waste paper

imposed upon their staff the most rigorous hygienic standards — considerably higher than the public health authorities or famous restaurants have ever demanded — yet what happens beyond their doors is universally of only philanthropic concern.

But even these token gestures are repulsed by the drinks manufacturers. Although Coca-Cola advertisements promote a clean life-style, Ian Muir, an executive with the company, says that "litter is caused by people and we feel no responsibility". Asked why the glitzy adverts could not also promote careful disposing of the can, Muir recites every other manufacturer's reaction: "We've no need to dissociate ourselves from the negative." Emphatically, Britain's drink industry is cool about two highly successful anti-litter initiatives in the United States.

Legislation in six States has fixed a compulsory 10 cent deposit on cans. Offering a guaranteed inducement for children and tramps has cleared New York's

streets forever of crumpled metal. But David Pritchard for Schweppes condemns the ruse as "demeaning" since it would "artificially" increase prices. In unison with other manufacturers, he argues that the shops would refuse to handle the empty cans just as they refused to handle returnable bottles — blaming the lack of space and administrative costs. "It's a disproportionate burden to everyone," Pritchard says. "And the rest of the rubbish is still there."

What truly reveals the industry's unwillingness to cure an evil of their own making is the reluctance to use a non-detachable ring-pull on cans. On pulling, the lid, still fixed to the can, goes inside the container instead of irretrievably on to the streets or into the grass. Muir of Coca-Cola was certain that it was unacceptable in Britain: "The consumers dislike it; ladies find it hard to open; and it is unhygienic because it goes into the drink." But Muir could not

satisfactorily explain why those disadvantages did not apply to the Coca-Cola Corporation in the United States, where the non-detachable ring-pull is practically standard.

The introduction of the environmental can in America was a victory won by pressure groups. Over 20 years Roger Powers, the director of Keep America Beautiful, has campaigned to "talk up the issue and to kill that attitude, 'It isn't mine so it's fine.'" America, with its "poop-scoopers" has certainly become cleaner. Cleanliness in British cities has meanwhile decreased.

The only professional investigation into Britain's sickness was carried out by the permanent Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution which in December 1985, specifically noted: "It is no exaggeration to say that many urban areas have a dirty, scruffy appearance." The commission blamed both public attitudes and the amateurism of waste collection. A visit to West Germany produced a list of recommendations

that central government should direct local authorities to adopt: street bins should be regularly emptied; dustbins with fixed lids which are mechanically tipped into lorries should be used, to forestall the dustman creating more litter for the street cleaner; and the status of waste management should be enhanced.

To the commission's chagrin, the Department of Environment rejected the report. Pleading impotence and lack of funds, the government claimed that domestic rubbish was a local authority responsibility. For the experts, it was a cynical excuse, since the government has powers, under Section 4 of the 1983 Amendment to the Litter Act, to order councils to publish their plans for clearing litter in their area — a measure which would certainly compel improvements. Left-wing boroughs such as Camden Council, which now sweeps most residential streets barely once every month, would need to fulfil their prime and realistic tasks, to provide a litter-free borough.

Compulsion is the only panacea, according to Bill Coombes, Westminster City Council's area manager in Soho's "Chinatown", with 31 years service in the rubbish industry. Coombes, who laments his low professional status, blames the shopkeepers: "They just keep throwing their rubbish on to the pavements and there's nothing we can do." Round-the-clock collection in Westminster barely keeps pace with the outflow. "I warn the shopkeepers but they ignore me." Throughout his career, Coombes has heard of only one prosecution: "Ten years ago, a policeman took someone to court in St John's Wood. We all thought it was the start of something, but it never happened again."

Since the Litter Act was passed in 1958, only 14,000 people have been convicted nationally. Scotland Yard's spokesmen explained that their officers rarely prosecuted offenders because there are more important crimes to pursue.

To date, the cure relies on the efforts of dedicated mavericks like Lady Porter, the leader of London's Westminster Council, who has declared "a guerilla war against those who don't care." It was a measure of public indifference that even the reporting of her efforts presented the image of an eccentric rather than a resolute campaigner. "Keeping London's streets clean," she said, "is a non-stop struggle and we need new measures." In March, with noticeable lack of popular support, Parliament granted the council powers to employ a 50-man force of plain clothes inspectors to tour central London issuing penalty tickets to unrepentant offenders. So far just one ticket has been issued but "hundreds of offenders have agreed to pick up their litter when approached by the warden," according to the council. If the punishment was as effective as the wheel clamp on illegal parking, the capital might look forward to cleaner times.

The business of getting Britain clean will be forever paralysed by tokenism, however well-intentioned. This week's appointment in Nottingham of a single litter warden at an annual salary of £7,500 bears little comparison, according to Ashworth, with the funds available for the causes of other major health risks: "I want a massive television campaign. If they can do it for Aids, they can do it for litter." Equating the two might seem far-fetched, until he mentions the cause of the fatal fire at the Bradford football stadium. (Times Newspapers Ltd 1988)

Victims of prejudice

Why should seeking psychiatric treatment still be considered a handicap on the career ladder?

One of the most powerful men in the world admits to a medical history which includes bowel and skin cancer. The man after his job may or may not have been treated for depression after a bereavement in 1973 and a career disappointment 10 years ago.

Yet no one is making a scandal of whether President Ronald Reagan's age and fitness problems disqualify him for the job. However, the debate over Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis's alleged psychiatric treatment will not go away.

The suggestion being made by Dukakis's detractors is that depression is so shameful, that he is bound to deny it. But why does this prejudice persist?

One GP consultation in 15 is over some form of mental distress, and half of these involve depression or anxiety (the two are often linked). It is estimated that in a lifetime, one person in 25 will seek psychiatric treatment for depression, but these figures in no way reflect the true problem. Depression after an emotionally upsetting event is rightly regarded as a normal reaction, and many people do

not bother to seek help for it.

Madeleine McGill, a psychologist who counsels executives who have been made redundant, is concerned that so much is being made of Dukakis's depression. "Sadness of some kind is the commonest reason for seeking psychotherapy — a one-to-one treatment involving the client and the counsellor. It usually involves feelings over a loved one, whether because of bereavement, or because of feelings of confusion about relationships. It is perfectly normal to feel depressed after some sad event in our lives."

Despite the normality of



Keeping his head: presidential contender Michael Dukakis

depression, the outside world is still prejudiced, says Chris Lewis, an occupational psychologist at North East London Polytechnic. "Although people are more tolerant than they were if their

next door neighbour suffers from a depressive illness, they revert to their original prejudices if it is someone who may have control over their lives, such as a politician."

However, Lewis says, there

is no reason why depression following an emotional event should disqualify anyone from a job. In this country, job applicants are asked to disclose any major health problems. Treatment for minor depression would not qualify. However, if a candidate failed to disclose a major problem, such as a manic depressive illness, then this could later become grounds for dismissal.

Although psychological testing is becoming much more common, most of it is designed to probe personality and attitudes rather than mental stability. Some would-be employers do write to an applicant's GP asking for details of the medical history. It seems unlikely, however, that the average family doctor would disclose a treatment which was over and done with many years earlier.

Lewis stresses that treatment for the kind of temporary depression which follows a bereavement or other

upsetting event does not disqualify anyone for office. "In fact you can argue that people who seek help for their depression are showing responsibility for their own health, and insight into the fact that they do have problems."

Unfortunately, given a choice between a politician who has had treatment for a psychiatric problem and a politician who hasn't, people choose the one who hasn't. And I imagine it would be the same in Britain.

But there are signs that the stigma surrounding a normal human reaction is beginning to fade — at least for those who can afford the £25 to £50 fees for a single session with a psychotherapist. Even relatively short periods of therapy involve attending once a week for about six months.

David Malan, a retired NHS psychotherapist now in

private practice, says most of his patients do not feel ashamed about seeking treatment. "The people who seek psychotherapy tend to be better educated, and they don't seem to mind telling their friends that they are getting help."

But the picture can be different for people who cannot afford the fees, and who face a less sophisticated reaction from their friends.

"People don't like admitting that they have had psychiatric treatment because public attitudes are still so prejudiced," says Chris Heginbotham, director of MIND. "A lot of people don't understand that mental illness, like any other brief illness, can be cured. Twenty years ago, no one would admit to having had cancer treatment. Now plenty of public figures are prepared to stand up and talk about it."

Ann Kent

SCIENCE REPORT

When seaweed ruled

A group of well-preserved fossils discovered recently in an Arctic archipelago paints a fascinating picture of marine life more than 700 million years ago. And the discovery of fossils of only very simple life forms from that period fuels a long-standing debate on how and why all the major groups of multicellular animals appeared not much later.

The new fossils, described in *Nature* this week, are of bacteria, primitive seaweeds and single-celled animals and plants, with no trace of multicellular animals. But just 100 million years later — a short period in geological terms — the seas were filled with many complex forms such as worms and shellfish. Researchers are still at a loss to explain this sudden flowering of multicellular life in the Cambrian period, between about 600 and 500 million years ago.

The new fossils show in exquisite detail what life was like on the ancient seabed: they show seaweeds and remains of blue-green algae — among the most ancient of living organisms. Studying the fossils are Professor Andrew Knoll from the Botanical Museum at Harvard University and his colleagues at the

University of Iowa. They find that the seaweeds are similar to the green seaweeds still alive today, such as the familiar "sea lettuce" *Ulva*.

Imprinted into the rock are strange tendrils that may have anchored the seaweeds to the seabed. Even more intriguing are impressions of long tubular filaments emerging from sack-like structures. These could be microbes caught in the act of germinating from cysts in which they had been dormant. And there are geological snapshots of bacteria clumped around organic detritus, which show that the bacteria behaved like modern decay bacteria.

But the absence of fossils of any animals or plants more advanced than seaweeds prompts researchers to ask how, not much later, the seas were so full of organisms vastly more complicated and diverse. In Australian rocks about 600 million years old, for example, there are impressions of multicellular jellyfish. So between 700 and 600 million years ago, the pace of evolution must have rocketed.

Between 500 and 600 million years ago, in the early Cambrian period, the seas were populated by a bizarre

selection of creatures. This sudden and unique appearance of about 100 major groups of complex animals, known as the "Cambrian Explosion", is a continuing puzzle. And why it happened in the Cambrian period rather than at any other time is also unknown.

One explanation hinges on climate. Before the Cambrian period was a series of intense ice ages. And the last series, which is still continuing, has intensified the evolutionary progress of many animals. So perhaps the pre-Cambrian ice ages did the same.

But other environmental effects must also be considered: in the early Cambrian period, a huge continent was breaking up, which resulted in the deposition of organic matter in great sedimentary basins. This may have changed the atmosphere, increasing the previously small quantities of oxygen to levels sufficiently high to support large, complex animals. How the various environmental influences may have combined to bring on the Cambrian explosion is still unclear. But the discovery of the fossils from the Arctic is sure to intensify the debate.

Henry Gee

(Nature-Thames News Service 1988)

SATURDAY

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Beehive houses: in one town of Apulia over 1,000 of these strange built dwellings

End of the road

Apulia is the high heel of Italy's boot, the peninsula on the peninsula, a place others regard as a world apart: the Romans erected two vast columns there, at Brindisi, to mark the end of the Apennine Way. But it was also a way in, and the maritime traffic passing through its ports has created across the centuries a richly bewildering cultural mix down there, even the language is different

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FRIDAY PAGE

مكتبة النور

Dangers of the feminist gospel



BARBARA AMIEL

There is a splendid little television series on Sunday evenings on BBC1 called *The Lambeth Walk*. A few churchmen sit on marvellously upholstered chairs of brocade and discuss the events of the Lambeth Conference. Last week, it was collegiality-in-action as four Bishops contended with the progressivism of America's Right Rev John Spong, Bishop of Newark, New Jersey. The Right Rev Spong was in fine form and although his dress was absolutely proper, one really felt he was wearing Topperside shoes, ready for a good spot of sailing off Cape Cod.

Matters kicked off with the delicate question of polygamy. "The important thing for me," Spong explained, "is to recognize that all marriage patterns come out of the economic fibre of the country, including polygamy." It was Spong's view that without polygamy, African women would be forced into prostitution or some form of "servile labour".

It fell to the Primate of All Ireland to handle that. He was a little worried, he explained, by a Church that equated doctrine with what was happening.

"Is there not a case somewhere," he asked politely, "for stating a strict Christian attitude to something and saying that 'look, we have to come to terms with this - polygamy is not acceptable to Christianity and there is a standard we have to take'?" This was getting into the tricky waters of moral absolutism, not to mention the uncomfortable question of Empire, since vetoing polygamy meant challenging the cultural structures of Africa, and it was the Bishop of Durham who explained that one wife, one love, one family, was of course the Christian ideal, but that we had to help people arrive at this by love.

At one time, I would have assumed that debate of this sort was restricted to the faithful. But times have changed. The increased social activism of the Church has given it a genuine influence in the secular world. Further, when the Church uses secular arguments to justify theological changes, one can hardly resist getting into the fray. And the fray this week was very much a feminist issue as Lambeth wrestled with the idea of women bishops.

The ordination of women is a topic that inspires feelings of great emotion among practising Christians. Practically speaking, it seems to me that any religion is not only entitled to change its rites according to the spirit of the times, but in fact has always done so. Historically, the rites and methods of worship as well as inclusions, exclusions and theological adjustments to changing social conditions have been the hallmark of vir-

ually every religion since time immemorial. That, I thought, is why we have Protestantism and why we have had innumerable religious wars. "I would like to suggest," Spong said, "that it is a much bigger issue than just the ordination of women. It is a justice issue that has to do with one group of people, namely males, defining another group, namely females, in terms of their own self interest, so to me it touches the deeper issues."

This point of view was greeted with restrained comments by his fellow bishops on the programme. But it occurred to me, as I watched the week's events unfold, that the Church has missed the opportunity to rebut a mischievous, and to my mind evil, notion that should have nothing to do with their synods.

The problem, surely, is not whether or not women should become ordained ministers on grounds of "justice". That is hardly a problem except for people of truly unfortunate skull structures whose bones extend into those cavities where brains normally reside. Immense numbers of religions have had women as both their officiating priests and the objects of worship. It happens, however, that the Christian God did not have a favourite daughter, he had a favourite son. His shepherds on earth are, I understand, made in His image. If Christians now decide to change that system, I suppose they may. Caligula could make his horse a consul, and no doubt the vestal virgins could be extended to include men. I'm not for a moment comparing women to horses, you understand. One is simply commenting on the right of any organization to arrange itself in whatever manner it pleases.

But what is a little irritating about all those favouring ordination of women, including people of a less progressive mind than the Right Rev Spong, is that they seem to assume that it should be done not simply to reflect a change in social expectations but rather as a correction of social injustice. They have swallowed the feminist suggestion that the rites of a particular religion are an indication or proof of society's discrimination against women.

This is utterly without merit and is as ahistorical and silly as, frankly, are most suggestions of political feminism. You can no more deduce women being second-class male citizens from the Christian practice of a male priesthood as you could deduce social discrimination against men from the adherents of say, Sophism.

Of course, I must say that in spite of the humour it invariably invokes, one rather appreciates the good-natured debate of the Church today. I much prefer Spong to talk about "uncertainty" as a virtue of the Church than having him settle differences with a St Bartholomew's Day massacre. One welcomes a period in history when people chat on television about fine doctrinal points rather than cut each other's throats while making them.

Not would I personally find schism a particular tragedy. Four Anglican churches, each permitting ordination of some different combination of priests including everything that is not vegetable, seems fine to me.

I personally consider all forms of organized worship perfectly irrational, although I happen to be a believer, and would certainly agree that women are as entitled as men to officiate at any irrational ritual.

But having said all this, one thought remains. It is a very dangerous notion of political feminism, or indeed of any of the political pressure groups of our time, to put forward the notion that humanity is divided into groups and that you require representation on par for each group.

One wishes the Anglicans well in their new policies, but they would do the soul of society some real good if they would make it crystal clear that in agreeing to the ordination of women or the non-ordination of women for those whose conscience it offends, they are agreeing to a shift in the social circumstances of the second half of the 20th century and in no way giving legitimacy to the idea that women are incapable of representing men, or men of women.

Singular persons

Is the single mother here to stay - and do we really understand who she is? Heather Kirby investigates

One hundred years ago, says Professor Richard Whitfield, the honorary chairman of the National Family Trust, there were, proportionally, as many one-parent families as there are today. But in 1888 it was men whose wives had died in childbirth who were left holding the baby; in 1988, more than three quarters of single parents are women. And, according to a recent report from the Family Policy Studies Centre, 20 per cent of births are now illegitimate compared to 8 per cent in the "swinging" Sixties.

The single mother, it appears, is here to stay and with her, many say, the attendant problems of undisciplined and disturbed children and increased juvenile crime. At either end of the political spectrum, mention of the single-mother tends to be coloured by such inflammatory language and such wildly different analyses of her ability to raise children, that we are in danger of losing sight of the real people and issues involved.

The statistical reality is this. Eleven per cent of single parents are men and 89 per cent women. Of the women, 19 per cent are widows, 38 per cent are divorced and 25 per cent separated. Unmarried mothers make up only the remaining 18 per cent, and of their births, according to the FPSC, three quarters were jointly registered by couples living at the same address. Into these various categories of single

mother fall such women as Jerry Hall, Joanna Lumley, Ann Diamond, Alison Moyet, Sara Keays, prospective Euro MP Harriet Crawley, Anna Ford and temporarily, before her marriage to John McEnroe, Tatum O'Neal.

A simple calculation indicates that the number of women electing to bring up a child entirely on their own, or conceiving in order to accumulate points for a council flat, must be insignificant. Yet the image of single parents being feckless or ruthless has a powerful and persistent hold on the national psyche. In both Lambeth and Southwark, the two inner London boroughs which head the latest league table for illegitimate births, 453 and 415 per 1,000 respectively, spokeswomen for both councils say a baby does not guarantee a council flat.

Also crucial for a fairer over-view is work such as that done by the Commission for Racial Equality. In its report *Ethnic Minority Children*, it states: "Non-married status at the time of the child's birth and marital breakdown was more common in Afro-Caribbean families. A quarter of the children in this group were not living with both natural parents at age five, compared with one in 10 of the European children and only 2.5 per cent of Indian/Pakistani children."

Most of those bringing up children on their own did not intend to do so. Although Anna Ford, widow of Mark Boxer, will have enough crises to cope with bringing up her two daughters, she can at least maintain the loving image of their dead father. Most of the divorced need to reconcile their children to an absent parent who supposedly still loves them.

The few well publicized middle-class career women who have decided to have a child without living with the father appear to have had a disproportionate effect on the general attitude towards unmarried mothers. Sara Keays thought she was going to marry Flora's father and Harriet Crawley also believed her pregnancy would end in a permanent and proper relationship.

In the two world wars many

mothers were widowed without their lone parenthood being singled out as a major cause of society's ills. Now such children, together with those from broken homes, are often assumed to be disadvantaged. Professor Valerie Karm, lecturer on environmental

health and housing at the University of Salford, is unmarried and has a daughter, Jacqui, aged 13. She says: "Being a single parent is a total irrelevance in my job, but some other professionals have an extremely odd attitude. When my daughter was little she had glandular fever and tonsillitis. On her primary school report card it said she had a poor health record with, in brackets, 'single-parent family' as if that had something to do with the status of her family. I am convinced that because she was from a single-parent home the school had no expectations of her and graded her in a B stream, whereas at her present school, where they know I am a professor, they have high expectations of her. She is a very well adjusted child."

Jane Wadsworth, of the Department of Community Medicine at St Mary's Medical School in London, concluded in a study with other child psychologists on the influence of family type on children's behaviour: "On average, children from one-parent families scored worst and children from two-parent families best in tests of behaviour, vocabulary, and co-ordination. The differences remained significant after allowing for associated influences."

This is in direct contrast to literature published jointly by Gingerbread and the National Council for One-Parent Families, which states: "In many studies of child development, apparent differences between children of one-parent and two-parent families disappear once allowance is made for social class, poverty, poor housing and environment." They also say that although 42 per cent depend on state benefits, it is inadequate childcare provision and the high cost of paying for it that often prevents lone parents from working.

To imply, as do groups such as the Conservative Family Campaign, that children from one-parent families are deprived of half the parental love they are entitled to ignores the fact that 60 per cent are regularly in touch with their estranged parent. Criminologist and sociologist Patricia Morgan argues in an essay published by The Social Affairs Unit, *Feminist attempts to sack father: a case of unfair dismissal*, that it is common to find poor father-child relationships as antecedents of delinquency even where there are apparently normal mother-child relationships. But that is an argument that could apply to dual parent families.

Whitfield, a professor of education at Aston University, joins those who see the destruction of society in the trend for single parenthood (a recent study conducted by Professor William Shreeve, of the Eastern Washington University, predicts that, by the year 2000, half of America's children may live in single-parent families). But Whitfield also blames poor parenting generally. Next month he begins a project with a consortium of schools including Gordonstoun, Roedean, Wellington College and Christ's Hospital, to introduce a syllabus relating to family and personal development.

"We are already seeing the signs of a breakdown in society, with the increasing juvenile crime, the inability of many schools to manage pupils, and boarding schools where the housemaster's time is taken up dealing with disruptive pupils whose behaviour is a result of lack of love at home. If something is not done to reverse the trend, within two generations we are going to see the collapse of the social ecology of Western society. The birth rate is below the replacement level, and unless those children who are born are nurtured with enough love and kindness they will not thrive."

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When trouble comes at the double

Are some twins too close for physical and mental comfort? Julia Orange reports on a medical mystery

Jonathan Floyd was having a beer in the Naafi of his Infantry regiment in Staffordshire when he felt a stabbing pain in his stomach. His appendix was taken out that night. Twenty-four hours later, 300 miles away in Weymouth, Dorset, his identical twin Jason doubled up over a bottle of lemonade. Shortly afterwards his appendix came out.

Two weeks later the twins, aged 17, recuperating at their parents' home in Weymouth, are unsurprised by their simultaneous sickness; they have been medical blueprints of each other for as long as they remember. At the age of three, John was taken into hospital with all the symptoms of whooping cough and released after a few hours. A few days later Jason was admitted with the real thing. At four, Jason fell through a window and had stitches in his head; three days later John fell through the same window and had the same number of stitches in the same place.

Jason and John, according to their stepfather, Jeffrey Selway, have always been intensely close physically and psychologically. "They are alike in character, very loyal - one will never split on the other." Until a few years ago they always dressed alike. They also laugh a lot.

Quite why it is that some twins, usually identical rather than fraternal, exhibit extraordinary, almost supernaturally tacit one-ness is a mystery medical science is still trying to solve. (Identical twins are formed when a normal fertilized ovum divides into two and each half becomes a separate individual. Fraternal twins are formed from two eggs fertilized by two sperm and frequently look no more alike than brothers and sisters.)

Identicals have the same genetic predisposition towards certain illnesses. But what is becoming increasingly clear, according to psychotherapist Joan Woodward, herself an identical twin, is that such closeness can be a source of intense pain, particularly when one twin dies.

Woodward - whose book *Understanding Ourselves* was recently published by Macmillan - speaks with some authority. Her own identical twin died when she was three. Losing her twin led to a kind

of agoraphobia, and for a while she refused to leave home. Her isolation was eventually cured by her far-sighted mother, who took her to a psychotherapist who she remembers had lots of nice toys and asked a lot of rude questions, and whose sensible advice was that she should start school as soon as possible.

School broke the bad spell but the loss of her twin affected her so deeply that as a therapist she wanted to find out if her experiences were

unusual. In 1986 she embarked on a study of bereaved twins, and while interviewing 200 of them she found in some "quite appalling levels of pain and distress".

She found identical twins felt the loss most keenly, particularly twins of the same sex. One man in his forties said that when his twin brother died at 19, he felt at first quite unable to go on living. "His death was like watching myself die".

If a twin is lost early in life, the surviving twin is often

brought up in the ambivalent atmosphere of a home where parents mourn a death and celebrate a new life simultaneously. Some twins, particularly women, felt (and one or two claimed to have been told by their parents) that the wrong twin had died.

The worst form of parental rejection occurred when a twin felt she was to blame for the other twin's death. One was told by her mother: "You took all the food." Another woman recalled that her mother told her during a fearsome family row that she was a twin and that she had caused the other twin to be dismembered before birth. The child asked her school teacher the next day what the word meant. Not surprisingly, at the age of 13, she made a suicide attempt.

Some twins frankly admitted that after the death of their twin they had felt a flash of relief and of freedom from the burden of twinning. "I suddenly realized," said one, "I would no longer be described as 'the boy'."

If there is a solution to unravelling such intense and entangled relationships, Woodward believes it lies in talking it out with other people who have suffered similar experiences. She applauds the pioneering work being done by Dr Elizabeth Bryan at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London, where special bereavement clinics have recently been set up. Here mothers and twins can discuss feelings informally and get professional advice.

For the Floyd twins, the only pain is having hysterics a day before their stitches come out. Soon they will go back to jobs, hundreds of miles apart and, "No, I won't miss him at all," Jason says, "... not much."

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Painful partners: twins Jonathan and Jason Floyd recovering from twin bouts of appendicitis

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TIMES DIARY

DAVID WALKER

Conspiracy theorists start here. What do Sir Denis Rooke, the gasman (1966), Dame Anne Muelier, the Whitehall personnel specialist (1967), John Bourn, the Conservative and Auditor General (1970), Sir Clive Whitmore, permanent secretary at the Home Office (1976), Bernard Ingham, prime ministerial press secretary currently keeping the Aussie press at bay (1978), Richard Bird, the Department of Education and Science scourge of the dons (1979), and Michael Scholier, Treasury and ex-No. 10 high flier (1988)... have in common? Answer at the bottom.

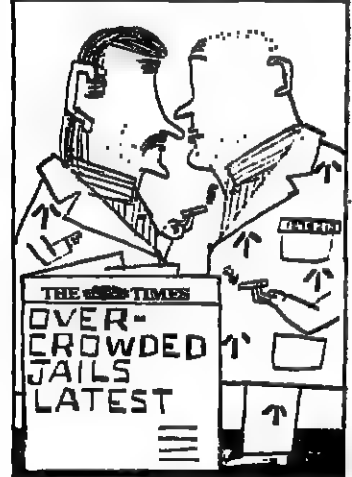
Even the most unflappable heads swivelled in the corridors of the Cabinet Office the other day. For who should be on his way into Sir Robin Butler's sanctum but Sir Humphrey himself. Butler had agreed to be interviewed by the actor Nigel Hawthorne for an edition of *Down Your Way*, due to be broadcast in the autumn. Hawthorne, naturally enough, has gone down your way in Whitehall; Butler's agreement to the interview possibly had something to do with the fact that first among Hawthorne's talks with the denizens of this particular village was the PM himself.

The Prime Minister has appointed a Borrowian as her new Efficiency Adviser. No, that is not a former pupil of a little known public school. The successor to Sir Robin Ibbis is a world expert on that oddity of 19th-century English literature, George Borrow. Sir Angus Fraser, who retired last year as chairman of the Board of Customs and Excise, has tracked down Borrow ephemera in New York, has walked the Borrow route from Portugal into Spain and last year regaled the annual conference of specialists on Borrow with his meticulously researched interpretation of the "veiled period" in the mysterious writer's life as scholar and gypsy.

Fraser comes to the job as an insider. But so were both his business predecessors. Lord Rayner and Ibbis, who had spent significant parts of their careers in Whitehall. Where Fraser's appointment by the Prime Minister is intriguing is what he will do to advance along the path marked out by Sir Robin in his report *The Next Steps*. Fraser is an enthusiast for managerial reform in Whitehall. He will keep going the programme of scrutinies in individual departments... but will he also be lobbying for a full-blooded implementation of Ibbis? At a seminar last December he startled participants by the forthrightness of his view that Whitehall departments be given more freedom to run their shows. The text of that speech is fast becoming a cult read.

William Plowden, Director-General of the Royal Institute of Public Administration, is off in the autumn to brash New York, a career move which has surprised those familiar with his diffident, cerebral style. He is going to run the Harkness Fellowships, the transatlantic awards administered by the Commonwealth Fund out of an old endowment. Plowden is going with the specific intention of getting away from the rather predictable bias the scheme has towards young academic over-achievers from Oxbridge. Future fellows, Plowden hopes, will be older (up to 40), well into their careers; they will spend shorter periods in the States and will work on subjects with a strong public policy content - what to do about drugs/schools/rural depopulation etc. Plowden wants to steer the fellowships towards people in jobs, like police officers, for whom a spell in the United States would be of practical as well as cultural or intellectual benefit.

BARRY FANTONI



'And to think I only turned to crime to avoid travelling on Network SouthEast'

The connection between those senior names is The Node. Don't write it up as a branch of the Freemasons, the Cabinet Office pleads. But it's difficult not to be impressed by the sequence of names that have attended the annual 10-day course that has been held at the Node Conference Centre at Knebworth in Hertfordshire during the past 25 years.

The Node, the Cabinet Office says, "is a very British institution" - meaning if you don't believe there is such a thing as the Establishment, have a look at the Node's visitors' book. Born out of a conversation at Ditchley in the early 1960s between the then head of the Civil Service and the chairman of the Federation of British Industry (as the CBI then was), the idea was to bring together high fliers from Whitehall and business. The fear then was that understanding built up between the Civil Service and industry during the war was fading.

First director of the course - which consists of discussions and guest speakers - was Alan Bullock, followed in those far off days of good academic-Whitehall links by Asa Briggs. It is now the responsibility of Brian Gilmore, who is in charge of training. Complete confidentiality, lively discussion... with a hand-picked cast list.

These are morally awkward times for doctors. The ethical certainties of the past, when the obligations of a doctor could be summarized in the relatively few lines of the Hippocratic Oath, have been replaced by acute doubts as to the acceptability of many of the advances of medical science. In such a climate, it is not too surprising that the British Medical Association should be calling for the setting up of a national committee to consider the ethical dilemmas posed by modern medicine.

This is not an entirely novel request; there have been similar calls before. But is such a body necessary, and could it possibly do what it is claimed it should do? The temptation to assume that a single body could by fiat settle ethical issues of such complexity is perhaps too easy.

The issues which are causing concern at present are ones of fundamental value. The state can regulate them to an extent, but many of them involve subtle problems on which only broad guidance can be given. For example, the state cannot solve the moral problems involved in a decision to breach medical

Alex McCall-Smith argues against a single watchdog for medicine

Second opinions needed

confidentiality; this can only be done after a careful assessment of the values involved in a particular case. The state can emphasize the moral significance of human life, but it cannot lay down in detail the appropriate response to a delicate question of when it is right to refrain from novel treatments.

The attraction of a national committee is that there would be a single body of some status making recommendations. This is probably attractive to many doctors, who feel in need of unambiguous guidance. A committee laying down what is right and wrong in this area would at least solve the dilemma for the anxious researcher or practitioner. This happened, to an extent, with the Warnock Report, in which highly controversial issues of great ethical

complexity were considered and concrete proposals were duly made to the Government.

It is questionable whether a standing committee is desirable. If there is to be a firm rule on any of these issues - for example, a rule stating that certain forms of activity in reproductive medicine are not to be undertaken - then the proper people to make such a decision are the legislators or, in some cases, the courts.

Until elected legislators determine the boundaries of what is acceptable in medical science, the medical profession must rely on self-regulation through existing ethics committees and the General Medical Council.

The GMC already has the power to state what is ethical conduct and what is not, and if a doctor engages in research which is ethically unacceptable, strong

internal disciplinary mechanisms are already in place. There is still also a role for individual conscience and difficult though it may be for the scientist involved, the individual must accept that he might be called to make his own judgement on the ethical aspects of his work.

At present, the medical profession receives ethical advice from many sources. Within the United Kingdom, there is an Institute of Medical Ethics - an independent and widely respected body - and several other centres devoted entirely to bio-medical ethics, and a number of university departments where a considerable body of work is done on issues of medical ethics. The call for a national committee implies that the work of all these centres, with all the inter-disciplinary effort involved

and the admirable diversity of opinion represented, is somehow inadequate to the task. This is certainly not the case. Promoting a handful of people to a position where they represent the "official" voice on ethical questions is a doubtful tactic. Inevitably, certain voices would dominate, inevitably, certain institutions might be tempted to represent themselves as the arbiters of what is right or wrong. A pluralistic society might well feel uneasy about such a prospect.

There are reasons why a piecemeal, or "problem by problem", approach is preferable in this area. The Warnock Committee was a perfectly satisfactory body - for the task allotted it. But would everybody have been happy if that same committee, with a constant membership, were asked to pronounce

on every controversial issue of medical ethics and medical law? An acceptable moral consensus is more likely to emerge if we see a variety of bodies in the future commenting on issues as they arise and making appropriate recommendations. As long as the medical profession and Parliament, which must have the ultimate say on the really important issues, are open to the views of such bodies, a democratic solution to these dilemmas is at least feasible. In America, where bioethical endeavour has flourished, the work of the National Commission was extremely useful, but the great bulk of ethical guidance still comes from private bodies.

The danger, then, is that a national committee might centralize the process of ethical debate to an excessive degree. The medical profession and the Government might then hear only one voice, when in reality there are many.

The author is a member of the faculty of law at Edinburgh University and co-author of the recently published Butterworths Medico-Legal Encyclopedia.

R.W. Johnson

When whites cry freedom



given some thought to when they might emigrate if things become desperate - that is, if law and order break down. There is a transition to minority rule. (Interestingly, even in such circles one finds many who are prepared to admit, in their cups at least, the ultimate inevitability of majority rule.) This morning two of the brightest students I am teaching here at the University of Cape Town came to ask my advice as to how they can emigrate to Britain. It is unutterably sad to see the country bleeding to death like this.

It is perfectly true to say that outside pressures are pushing whites towards the right. Andries Treurnicht's Conservative Party is growing like wildfire - in the past three months it has doubled the membership it had acquired in the previous six years, and it is no longer beyond the realms of possibility that Treurnicht could win power. But this is probably no longer the main point. To prevent unemployment rising, South Africa needs to create 450,000 new jobs a year, but since 1980 there has actually been a net loss of jobs. On present trends, without even allowing for the further sanctions which are bound to come, by the year 2000 unemployment will rise to 50 per cent - which surely means that at some point before then this whole society will founder in chaos.

South Africa, then, desperately needs a way out. Private conversation and opinion polls alike show that only one foreign politician has the overwhelming confidence of South African whites, and that is Mrs Thatcher. The sentimental links to Britain are also still strong, while Britain remains overwhelmingly the largest foreign investor here. What all this boils down to is that Mrs Thatcher is the best placed politician in the world to play a constructive role in averting an immense tragedy. If she wishes to finish her career with a Nobel Peace Prize, and to universal world acclaim, Mrs Thatcher should now be looking hard to the far south.

The author is visiting professor of politics at the University of Cape Town, and author of *How Long Will South Africa Survive?* (Macmillan).

South Africa - already Woody Allen's films cannot be shown.

SABC Television is already a monument to what this sort of cultural boycott produces: thanks to the Equity ban no British television material may be shown, so instead there is endless American glop of the *Dallas*/*Bob* variety. The SABC jealously guards BBC material it acquired before the Equity ban became effective, which is why one occasionally has a time capsule feeling here with the radio featuring clips from *Take It From Here*, *The Goon Show* and, most recently, running the 1950s BBC dramatization of *Day of the Triffids*. Similarly, one frequently finds

in the shops old-fashioned goods of the type that have long vanished from the shelves of British stores - marmalade in big tins, toasters where you turn the toast over manually, and so on.

One reason for this is the way miracles of self-sufficiency are performed here with old designs rather than import new ones; but another is that with the income redistribution from white to non-white going on, it is the lower end of the market that is growing fastest, so cheap, old goods do well. (Those who have nibbled only anti-apartheid propaganda can get a shock from shopping in the average South African supermarket, let alone from photographs of inter-racial

weddings in the social pages of a Cape Town newspaper.)

But already the three most important features of Rhodesianization are in place: a growing militarization of society, and large-scale draft-dodging; a currency which has collapsed to the point where the main economic activity is import substitution and foreign travel for South Africans is almost an economic impossibility; and a large, steady haemorrhage of emigration, most marked among the economically vital (and expensively educated) professional classes.

Even among rural Afrikaners, and even among supporters of the far-right Conservative Party, one finds that everyone has

Commentary • ROBERT KILROY-SILK

A bad case of arrogance

The appointment of Kenneth Clarke as Secretary of State for Health is good news. It is an ambitious politician who will bring a much-needed populist and professional touch to his new domain.

He should at least be able to wring something positive out of the current review of the NHS. He is certainly not the kind of minister to have much patience with the bureaucratic wrangling that so often characterizes health service decision-making.

A robust, no-nonsense approach is definitely needed. In the past few years the health service cannot actually claim to have been putting patients' interests first. It has tended to cater to its own sectional demands rather than administer to the requirements of the sick.

It is true that there are many dedicated doctors and nurses who work long hours in difficult conditions, and thousands of ancillary and administrative staff who give unstinting service for little financial reward. Few of those who have had recourse to the NHS for emergency or life-saving treatment are anything but its lifelong admirers.

It needs more money, of course. It always does and it always will. But far more important will be a change in attitude towards the sick on the part of doctors and administrators.

The new Secretary of State could actually make a start towards achieving this by insisting that we have a real National Health Service. What we have at

the moment is a series of regional health authorities, all offering varying standards of treatment and care.

We do not need to go further for evidence of this than the variations in waiting times. In some places it is possible to obtain urgent and non-urgent surgery almost immediately. A few miles away a similar patient will have to wait, sometimes in agony and discomfort, for months if not years for the same operation. All patients should be given equal consideration and should have proper access to the best that is available.

All that is needed is for there to be a schedule of the national waiting lists for each speciality tied to a simple piece of technology, that, at the press of a button, can indicate which hospital has the shortest waiting time.

Patients can then be left to decide whether to wait longer to have the convenience of local treatment, or to accept the inconvenience of travelling for an earlier date. My experience with heart patients on Merseyside suggests they will invariably choose the earlier date.

The trouble is that patients are not given the choice. It is not because the technology is unavailable. The full range of facilities is denied to patients because their GP cannot be bothered to shop around to get them the best deal, or because he sticks to the one, known, consultant; or, often, because the consultant himself is reluctant to release people from his own long waiting list for fear of weakening

his leverage with the health authorities for resources.

The same disregard for patients has been simply demonstrated by the revelations of instances where experiments have been carried out without patients' knowledge or consent. It is disgraceful for patients to be distressed or put at risk without an explanation, still less their permission.

How else can one describe the experiment at Leicester Royal Infirmary in which 61 children under the age of six were given routine surgery, such as circumcision or hernia operations, and then kept in hospital for a couple of extra days in order to study whether they were distressed and their school work suffered? They were, and it did. Other children, at Birmingham Children's Hospital, were given an antibiotic related to penicillin in order to study the effects on their sweat.

Both experiments seem to demonstrate a cavalier attitude to patients and their parents. They are not considered important enough to make considered decisions about the use of their own or children's bodies.

The experiments also display an alarming arrogance on the part of the doctors. It is exhibited again in the *post hoc* rationalization of their behaviour. I haven't heard one of the doctors actually admit to having been wrong to have done things to people that were not for their benefit, without their knowledge or consent.

What I have read is the surgeon John Johnstone boasting that his action in

keeping children in hospital longer than necessary was criticized "too vigorously" by another doctor, and Dr Peter Weller, one of those responsible for administering unnecessary drugs to children, arguing that "any risk is minuscule".

It is the same kind of arrogance towards the bodies of others that enables a Marietta Higgs to cause children to be removed from their beds in the middle of the night, and to roam wards in the dark hours in search of a sick child with a normal anus to compare with one allegedly sexually abused.

It is a similar arrogance that allows surgeons involved with women having operations for breast cancer to deny them counselling because its benefits have not been scientifically proved; that causes hospitals to notify cancer patients, through the media instead of personally, that they had an extra dose of radiation; and which, at a very superficial but important level, ensures that the sick all arrive at outpatients' clinics at the same time and sit in noisy and overcrowded waiting rooms merely for the convenience of the consultant.

I don't suppose any of these patients were private ones. Private patients are not made to feel that they can be used without their consent and that they should be grateful for their treatment.

If Kenneth Clarke can change this attitude then he will have achieved something that no amount of money can buy.

AUGUST 5 ON THIS DAY 1911

The visit to London in 1911 of Sergei Diaghilev's Russian Ballet created a sensation. Bronislava Nijinska, sister of the great dancer Vaslav Nijinsky, has said they had little or no English. They managed to get their life round "Covent Garden" but had to write the name and address of their hotel on a card.

THE RUSSIAN BALLET

A RETROSPECT

This summer of 1911 has brought more than an aesthetic revolution with it: in bringing the Russian Ballet to Covent Garden it has brought a positively new art, it has extended the realm of beauty for us, discovered a new continent, revealed new faculties and means of salvation in our lives. And many pleasant illusions have been shattered thereby, many idols tumbled from their pedestals; we have grown up terribly fast and lost the power of enjoying things that pleased our callow fancies only a month or two ago. Who can go back now with the old zest to the amateurish minuscules of 1911? Who will put up any longer with the battered themes, the insipid music, the ingenuous setting, and the clumsy grouping to which we were accustomed once? They will still have their public, those things; but they will no longer do for the "700 honest folk" who seek at that hour for the means to "make their souls".

So quickly have we grown up that our first underlining pleasure has begun to settle into analysis and criticism. We distin-

guish. Scheherazade, *Carnaval*, *Cleopatra*, *Pavillon d'Armide*, *Prince Igor*, *Sylvides*, *Spectre de la Rose* - they are all charming, but some are more charming than others are less charming, all are charming in different ways. To say that this ballet or that was the best in its kind is to miss the point and to miss the sequence and contrast that gave them their value. Still there were moments when, evidently, we all agreed that we were drinking draughts of unalloyed and undisturbed pleasure, and these are associated with the simplest of all the ballets, with the *Sylvides*, with *Carnaval* and with the *Spectre de la Rose*, in the last of which the genius of as many people, from Weber and Théophile Gautier down to Prokofiev and Nijinsky, combined to produce a perfect gem; such a simple idea, such a simple scene, so short, embodied all in the figures of a man and a woman, such well-known music ("L'invitation à la Valse"); and in the result the quick sense of life, the assurance of delight in a perfectly understood, perfectly rounded artistic whole. The other ballets, more complicated, the pure sense of pleasure, sophisticated by uncertainties of emotion, yet touching greater depths of possibility.

On the whole the music of these pieces is magnificent. Schumann, Chopin, and Weber enriched by orchestral settings. Borodin's *Prince Igor* - full of colour; Tchaikovsky's *Pavillon d'Armide* charmingly adapted to its purpose, and predisposing to the right degree of sentiment. Perfection in every branch: necessary and to the perfect impression and the splendour of the music, the massiveness of the distance between the ballet and those of the music-halls.

It is not going to come to schools. Parents will be obliged to choose the schools that children when parents are not of lessons to authority.

The Education that is to be chosen is to be chosen by parents who are governing bodies who are schools in September with the practical effect of the Act, completed by the Government of their duty to the problems of the violence to the spirit of the school to be on this extra.

Teachers are not to be chosen by parents who are governing bodies who are schools in September with the practical effect of the Act, completed by the Government of their duty to the problems of the violence to the spirit of the school to be on this extra.



1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN Telephone: 01-481 4100

NO HURRY TO DISARM

The timing of the Commons Foreign Affairs Committee report on arms control, the day after Matthias Rust was freed in Moscow, was almost too good to be true. Few developments were so well calculated to colour Western perceptions of the Soviet Union as the release of Herr Rust after 14 months of a four-year prison sentence.

For political as well as personal reasons, one must welcome Mr Gorbachov's act of clemency. The timing was doubtless a gesture to the West German Foreign Minister, Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher who has just completed a visit to Moscow, and it will strengthen Soviet-West German relations in advance of Chancellor Kohl's trip in October. Bonn's leading role in Europe and in Nato give this a significance far beyond the borders of the Federal Republic.

But would any 20-year-old Russian who flew into Parliament Square or Central Park on a so-called "mission of peace" have been jailed for four years in the first place? The sentence he received, and now the young man's overdue release, might be seen as political instruments of détente.

So too might the INF Treaty and the other negotiations covered by the Commons study. On the one hand they represent progress in a continent which for many years knew none. On the other, they have to be judged in a wider context.

The treaty itself by removing all medium-range nuclear missiles from East and West Europe, in fact creates more problems than it solves. The American cruise and Pershing 2 missiles which are now to be dismantled, were installed only partly as a response to the Soviet SS-20. They were also meant to strengthen the coupling between the United States and Europe and to provide a further link in the chain of nuclear responses, between the short-range missiles on the battlefield and the strategic missiles based either in America or at sea. They were intended to reassure Western Europe, whose conventional forces were so

inferior to those of the Warsaw Pact. Now the euphoria of the INF Treaty has died down, the West is left with these same problems it had 10 years ago.

Western reaction to Mr Gorbachov swings from ecstacy one moment, to dark mistrust the next. In fact he deserves neither response. By Russian standards he is certainly a pragmatist, committed to reform of the Soviet system and to making the motherland more efficient and habitable. The reduction of military spending and the diversion of funds to help civilian industry, is one of Mr Gorbachov's priorities.

But differing ideologies as well as ancient rivalries and fears, continue to divide Europe. The Soviet record on human rights, while getting better, remains a source of friction and a barrier to mutual understanding. To dismantle a security framework which has been painfully and expensively built, at the very first signs of détente, makes little sense. Disarmament is a desirable objective. But over-hasty progress, prompted by instant assessments of the Kremlin, can easily lead to allied disunity and angst.

Not the least of the difficulties which Nato is now facing, concerns defence spending. Even after the London summit of 1977, at which Nato governments committed themselves to a 3 per cent annual rise in military budgets, very few of the member nations reached their targets. Now, with the INF Treaty signed, the negotiations well-advanced on strategic arms and talks about talks under way on conventional forces, Nato's West German Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, has an unenviable job in keeping the alliance up to scratch. Improvements in conventional forces, the modernization of nuclear weapons and the presentation of arms control positions to Western electorates, will all pose problems. An alliance which has unilaterally disarmed, will find it hard to persuade another to do the same.

No doubt Herr Rust meant well. But as the MPs' report suggests the real route to lasting peace is necessarily slow.

PROPAGANDA OR DIPLOMACY

Sir Sridath Rampal gave the game away this week when he emerged from the Toronto meeting of a committee of Commonwealth foreign ministers to trade jeers with Mrs Thatcher. The Prime Minister's contention that sanctions against South Africa simply impoverished black South Africans, was, he said, typical of South African propaganda which the committee had resolved to counter through a campaign of its own.

To believe that Mrs Thatcher is a victim of anything but her own convictions would seem, at best, eccentric, but it is no less bizarre that the Commonwealth Secretary-General's twin and contradictory beliefs that black South Africans do not suffer from sanctions but are prepared to do so in the name of liberation.

The facts, assembled not by Pretoria or by any of its dupes as might lurk in Downing Street, but by organizations of such resolute independence as the Investor Responsibility Research Centre in Washington, suggest otherwise.

In a recent analysis of all the opinion polls conducted among black South Africans in recent years, the IRRC found that the results were consistent, irrespective of who conducted the survey. Despite Archbishop Desmond Tutu's best efforts to convince them and the world otherwise, 76 per cent of black South Africans said no, and continue to say no, to sanctions and disinvestment because of the economic sacrifice involved.

The IRRC has also found that the flight of American companies from South Africa, far from eroding apartheid, had "contributed to a consolidation of economic power by South Africa's whites", had meant the loss of corporate contributions to groups challenging South Africa's apartheid policies and had had grim consequences for black employees and their communities.

But the perverse effects of sanctions are not restricted to South Africa's black population. A recent survey by the South African Institute of International Affairs, which is no supporter of

Pretoria, found that far from persuading white South Africans of the error of their ways sanctions had swung them into an uncompromisingly hardline stance on both foreign policy and domestic issues.

Sir Sridath Rampal and the Commonwealth committee charged with monitoring and tightening sanctions against South Africa are right to be alarmed by the effects of their handiwork, but to attempt to denigrate the facts, however unpleasant, as South African propaganda is simply to heighten the pervasive atmosphere of cynicism and unreality which surrounds the whole sanctions industry.

There are, however, two ways of dealing with South Africa and both were on display this week. While Sir Sridath and the eight Commonwealth Foreign Ministers were earning the Prime Minister's contempt by "deciding in five-star hotels that there should be poverty and starvation by a large number of black people", the United States, Cuba and Angola were engaging the South African Government in an exercise of patient diplomacy which may yet bring peace to Angola and an international settlement to Namibia.

Despite the rather obvious ploy by the South African Foreign Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, to gain the moral high ground by unilaterally disclosing South Africa's own peace offer — summarily rejected by the Cubans and Angolans — there is a growing belief in Whitehall and Washington that the rival positions are neither immutable nor irreconcilable. To suggest — as some have done — that Mrs Thatcher should ignore the quiet example of Geneva, abandon whatever influence she retains with Pretoria and instead embrace the example of Toronto simply because it may be impolitic of her to stand alone is not merely to elevate hypocrisy and pusillanimity to the level of foreign policy. It is to ask her to choose propaganda above facts and the certainty of conflict and deprivation in southern Africa above the chance of peace.

PARENT POWER

It is not going to be easy when parent power comes to schools in England and Wales. Parents will be obstructive when it comes to closing schools their own children attend, obstinate when places are refused to their children they are convinced deserve them, and critical of lessons they feel usurp their natural authority.

The Education Reform Act insists, among other things, that there is a moral context to sex-education lessons, gives a premium to parental choice in schools and offers real power to parents who wish to serve on the new governing bodies which reduce local authority influence. The problems that will face the schools in September when they come to grips with the practical effects of these changes were crystallized in three reports this week.

The Act, coupled with other legislation, is part of the Government's aim to remind parents of their duty to instil in their children a sense of social responsibility in dealing with the problems of the 1980s ranging from soccer violence to the spread of Aids, from racial prejudice to sex education. A report from Her Majesty's School Inspectors shows just how ill-prepared the heads, teachers and governors are to take on this extra burden.

Teachers are not properly trained, and parents and school governors are not being consulted sufficiently in the preparation of the courses which will have to be improved. The considerably if they are to have any value. The responsibility for making the courses work will rest with the head teachers who will have to juggle the priority they give to social lessons with the demands of the national curriculum. They would do well to remember that social lessons cover sensitive and controversial issues and would be making a mistake if they automatically put them at the foot of the list.

So the Department of Education and Science is going to have to give proper consideration as to how these lessons, to which Parliament attaches such importance, are provided.

On a second front officials of the department will have to smarten up their ideas on falling school rolls and the question of school closures. The argument between parental choice and getting value for money by closing small ineffective and wasteful schools must now be faced. The prevocation has gone on too long.

The independent Audit Commission, in its second report on falling school rolls, says that empty school places are still costing the country £250 million a year while local education authorities fail to provide the country with an adequate educational service. The delay in reaching closure decisions as the papers lie stuck in the Department of Education leads to some schools dying on their feet. The bureaucratic excuse that each closure must be considered carefully to avoid legal challenge is no longer good enough.

But all the good intentions, all the necessary reforms in giving the schools back to the parents will fail if too few of them come forward to serve on the new bodies. The first elections of parent governors will take place in the first week of September. A Labour Party survey of local authorities published yesterday indicated that one third were finding it difficult in recruiting parents as governors. There is still time for more parents to volunteer. Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, who is just coming to the end of a working holiday on the Nile must spend the remainder of the summer break ensuring that parent power does not founder on the rock of bureaucratic obduracy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Controversy over animal organ transplants

From Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, MP for Newbury (Conservative)
Sir, As a kidney patient on dialysis but cleared for a transplant I must express my extreme repugnance at the suggestion that animal organs should be used in transplant surgery. I welcome the BMA's statement (report, August 2) that the ethics of such experiments raise profound questions about the integrity of human tissue.

Ethically I can accept dialysis as I can any other life-giving equipment because the body remains intact. I can just accept the idea of receiving a human organ as the gift of life willingly passed on from one person to another. But to take organs from animals arbitrarily and put them in place of failed parts of a human body is to delve into the realms of Frankensteinian science.

Speaking only for myself, if the organ I may be offered one day as a transplant for my failed kidneys is not a gift and not of human tissue I want no part of it. If that means I will never have a transplant so be it.

I want to go to my grave as a complete human being — not part man and part pig. The length of my life is infinitely less important to me than preserving the integrity and sanctity of my human body. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL MCNAIR-WILSON, House of Commons, August 1.

From Father Peter D. McGuire
Sir, The apparently premature release of information about the proposed increase in the use of animal organs for human transplant surgery has, nevertheless, brought to the surface the protests of "animal rights" groups.

The outcry against such use must be contrasted with the generally favourable reception given to recent news about the use of warm foal brain tissue for the relief of Parkinson's disease, and the prospects of human embryo experimentation for the culture of tissue for transplantation.

Whilst having respect for animals and demanding their humane treatment up to, and including, their slaughter for the benefit of mankind, I cannot accept the implication behind the protests which may be summed up

as: a born pig has more value than an unborn human being. Yours sincerely, PETER D. MCGUIRE, 9 Castle Hill, Eickington, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

From Mr G. F. Newman
Sir, Your leading article, "Horizontal humans" (August 2) was striving so hard for reason and balance that it missed some very important points, and left a clear scientific bias. Such a position is your privilege, but the use of language is, one suspects, intentionally deceptive rather than woefully ignorant.

The use of the word "break-through" in such circumstances suggests some beneficial advance here. "Setback" more accurately describes the situation. For any sort of heart transplant takes us further away from a healthy heart and fosters the dangerous "break-down service" mentality towards our bodies.

Even if the moral, ethical, emotional and spiritual objections could be reasoned out of existence, the practical objections are overwhelming. If we had all the transplant surgeons working full-time, and assuming that we had enough donors of hearts, lungs, kidneys, livers (and soon brains or bodies), there wouldn't be enough surgeons, operating theatres or hours in the day to get through the lists of people suitable for spare-part surgery. Logic tells us there must be another way.

There is, firstly, not to let the heart get into such a mess; secondly, to pull it back from the brink by a regime of diet, exercise, relaxation. To have scientists with huge career investments in high technology tell us otherwise is blatant dishonesty.

Yours faithfully, G. F. NEWMAN, Westinghouse, Herefordshire, Wootton Bassett, Herefordshire.

From Dr Robert Sharpe
Sir, There are three main objections to the "cross-species" transplants planned by the Dulwich Hospital team. Firstly, the initial experiments will inevitably involve suffering and death to many animals even though, as past transplant research has shown, results can prove seriously misleading for humans.

The situation is surely little different from that in industry, except perhaps the pay. The general manager of any go-ahead expanding company constantly faces similar pressures, and must strike a productive balance between stability and change. The general manager in the NHS is accountable to his chairman. With a complementary duo, strong and effective leadership of the kaleidoscope of local health services can be achieved: to the benefit, I strongly suggest, of the public they serve, both in sickness and in health. Yours faithfully, CHRISTOPHER FAINE, Dame Alice Farm, Watlington, Oxfordshire, July 29.

Threat to Stamford

From Dame Penelope Jessel
Sir, The industrial use of Stamford is appalled to learn of the "resurrected" scheme for a by-pass against whose siting Professor Cull (July 27) argues with such authority. To inflict such a gash across one of the most marvellous transitions from country into town would be vandalism of a prime order.

But there could be even worse to come were the by-pass to go ahead. In Oxford and Oxfordshire, beset as we are by road plans, we know too well the effects such roads may have. Enormous and almost irresistible pressure builds up for development along their lines, whether for superstores, industrial use or housing. The volume of traffic generated as a result may then lead to demands for further relief roads — a kind of by-pass to a by-pass.

The crucial point, however, is that it must be recognised that towns like Stamford are no ordinary settlements and cannot be treated as such. Historic towns need special consideration: the utmost sensitivity should be applied in considering any scheme which may affect their rare qualities. Yours faithfully, PENELOPE JESSEL, The Cottage, The Green, Cassington, Oxford.

Back in the fold

From Canon Gervase W. Markham
Sir, I was interested to read Mrs Battistini's letter (July 27). The walls of Morland parish church, in the Eden Valley, bear two, contrasting tablets. One records the names of 16 men killed in the Great War of 1914-18. The other reads as follows:

This tablet given by the parishioners Records their Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the safe return from the War of 1939-1945 of all their Men and Women (over 60 in number) and of the preservation from damage of this Church and Parish. Every year on Remembrance Sunday one of the survivors of this dwindling group takes his turn to hang a wreath on the tablet of the First War, and then stands before

the second tablet as its memorable words are read aloud. Yours faithfully, GERVASE W. MARKHAM, The Garden Flat, Morland House, Penrith, Cumbria, July 27.

From Mrs F. V. B. Wits
Sir, A tablet in the village hall here at Upper Slaughter records 25 names of those who served in 1914-1918 (including one woman) and 36 names of those who served in 1939-1945. In both wars all returned safely. There was no war memorial: the village hall was built as a thanksgiving. Yours truly, ALICE M. WITTS, The Dingle, Upper Slaughter, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, July 28.

Secondly, cross-species transplants are being contemplated because of a lack of human donors. It is this problem which needs to be solved rather than embarking on new, costly and painful animal research which in the past has failed so miserably.

Finally, by devoting so much attention to transplants, the effect is to downgrade the importance of preventive medicine. A co-ordinated and well-resourced programme based upon prevention would obviate the need for so many transplants and allow those still in need to receive human organs. Although prevention is known to be the most effective approach, it is denied the glamour and news worthiness of transplant surgery.

Once again a speculative animal research programme will divert public attention and resources away from our real health priorities. As a result both humans and animals continue to suffer needlessly. Yours faithfully, R. SHARPE, (Scientific adviser), British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection, 16a Crane Grove, N7.

From Mrs M. D. Pooley
Sir, Scientists are now preparing to transplant both organs and genes between man and animals. In the US they have been able to patent a new type of animal with human genes (report, June 6).

Will the time come, one wonders when, for patent purposes, scientists will have to decide whether a creation is either man or animal? Will the Church at last be forced to step in to arbitrate? Yours faithfully, M. D. POOLEY, Laureston Cottage, Crawley Ridge, Camberley, Surrey.

From Dr S. P. Bate
Sir, So, Orwell has done it again. I quote the final sentence of *Animal Farm*: "The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again: but already it was impossible to say which was which." Yours faithfully, PAUL BATE, 7 Lee Crescent, Sutton Benger, Chippenham, Wiltshire.

GCSE standards

From Miss Kirsty Woodard
Sir, I read with growing annoyance the letter of Miss Clare Oliver (July 30) concerning the GCSE 1, and many others who took the O level at school are fed up with the assumption that real work was "something previous O-level candidates only really experienced during the last two weeks before the exams".

Miss Oliver seems to assume that two years' notes can be written up in two weeks and two years' work can be learnt in two weeks, and that for a year and a half all O-level candidates and their teachers sat in their classrooms throwing paper aeroplanes. If the O levels were as cosy as Miss Oliver implies, 100 per cent pass rates should have been achieved.

I suggest that the GCSE candidates should cease to complain about the O levels until they have written five essays in 2½ hours as in an O level and not two in two hours. Yours faithfully, KIRSTY WOODARD, 5 Ruskin Grove, Temple Hill, Dartford, Kent.

From Miss Tansy Bruce
Sir, As a fairly recent O-level candidate, I should like to point out, in response to Miss Clare Oliver's letter, that we studied for perhaps a little more than two weeks before each exam.

I am sure it is true that there were disadvantages to the old system; but possibly the more rigid choice of literature was on our side when it came to grappling with the idiosyncrasies of English grammar, punctuation and syntax. Yours faithfully, TANSY BRUCE, 28 Seagry Road, Wanstead, E11, July 31.

Carnival dispute

From the Deputy Leader of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea Council
Sir, May I correct an erroneous impression that might have been given in your News Roundup item on the Notting Hill carnival today (August 3), particularly as a result of the bizarre quote in it from the chairman of the environment committee of Westminster City Council.

This council, in not issuing permits for street trading during the carnival, is doing exactly what it has done in every previous year. We were asked by the police this year to investigate the possibility of introducing a licensing system. We did so, and concluded that it would be a difficult but possible task, provided that we had the agreement of the carnival arts committee. Unfortunately, this agreement has not been forthcoming to any scheme which the council could properly operate. Yours faithfully, GERALD GORDON, Deputy Leader of the Council, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Kensington, W8, August 3.

The rights of shareholders

From Mr Robert Breckman
Sir, Two chairmen have recently been given retirement presents of about £1 million each. British Telecom (report, June 24) which bought its chairman a generous pension, did not ask permission of their shareholders and Rothmans (report, July 30) did. Neither made any difference to the result.

Shareholders reap the benefits of increased profits in the value of their shares, as do those directors who are remunerated on a profits-related basis. But the magnitude of these latest awards highlights the financial nepotism of a board of directors.

The Companies Acts and the taxes Acts should be broadened in their scope to prevent this particular usage of a company's fund and not only should a maximum be put on the settlement figure, but a 75 per cent majority of all shareholders should sanction it. Yours faithfully, ROBERT BRECKMAN, Breckman & Co, Chartered Accountants, 49 South Molton Street, W1, August 1.

CBI and inflation

From Mr G. L. Lloyd
Sir, As a businessman I believe that the CBI is given much too much credence and publicity for its profundity of views on the economy and export markets.

Not so long ago the CBI was pleading for a reduction in interest rates on the grounds that the high cost of finance was an investment inhibitor. Mr Lawson put that argument in its place by scornfully pointing out that the wage increases conceded by business were of much greater cost significance than the then interest rates.

This time the CBI is pleading for the exchange rate to be held down in order to keep its costs in line with those of its overseas competitors. What the CBI should be doing is to thunder its persuasion at its members to keep their wage cost increases to no more than the rate of inflation instead of seeking from the Chancellor the soft option of a weak sterling exchange rate.

This Government has faced out the unions and the high-spending town halls. Now they should stand up to business on the currency front and tell them that they have the solution to their cost problems in their own hands.

The country needs a strong pound to fight the next real battle — the battle of inflation. Yours faithfully, G. L. LLOYD, 55 Woodside Avenue, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, August 1.

A little Greek

From Mr Michael Wolf
Sir, My fellow students of Greek and I are delighted that Parris Haldane (July 25) has praised the "power and majesty" of that language, ancient and modern.

And it is true that "a confusing version (of anglicised Greek)" has been handed down through the centuries. But such developments clearly are universal, whether transliteration is required or not. So will English-speaking people always travel to Rome or Munich and not to "Roma" or "München".

Your correspondent is calling for "an acceptable transliteration for the future" in "a new dictionary". Heaven forbid! Scholars agree that transliteration is always bound to be somewhat haphazard, hence unreliable. However, quite distinct from transliteration is, of course, phonetic transcription, a far superior guide to pronunciation, and dictionaries with such transcriptions do exist.

Yours sincerely, MICHAEL WOLF, 41 Lansdowne Road, W11, July 27.

Design showcase

From Dr E. S. Owen-Jones
Sir, In a recent letter (July 18) Professor John Eggleston regretted the absence of a venue where the quality of the entries in technological competitions could be appreciated by a wider audience.

A partial solution to the problem has been found in Cardiff where ASW (formerly Allied Steel & Wire) hold a major annual "technical innovation" competition for schools. Following the one-day final the winning and commended entries are transferred to the Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum where they remain on public display for two weeks. This arrangement has operated for the last two years and has proved most successful. Yours faithfully, E. S. OWEN-JONES (Acting Keeper), Welsh Industrial and Maritime Museum, Bute Street, Cardiff, July 28.

On the run

From Mrs Roger Parker-Jervis
Sir, Sign of the times: we observed recently at the side of a roadside on the Isle of Skye a hand-written sign warning us to "Beware free-range children!" Yours faithfully, DIANA PARKER-JERVIS, The Gardener's Cottage, Great Hampden, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, August 1.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
August 4: His Excellency Mr. Yousef Sharara and Mrs. Sharara were received in audience by the Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Court of St. James's.

Mr C J Turner (Governor of Monserrat) and Mrs Turner had the honour of being received by Her Majesty.

His Excellency Mr H S Walker and Mrs Walker were received in audience by the Queen and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as High Commissioner for Jamaica in London.

CLARENCE HOUSE
August 4: Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother.

Marriages

Mr A.M.L. Cazelet and Miss A.T. Saville
The marriage took place on Saturday, July 30, at Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon, of Mr Andrew Cazelet, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Cazelet, of London and Wilshire, and Miss Amanda Saville, daughter of Mr John Saville and the late Mrs Moira Saville, of Barrels Park, Uffington, Warwickshire. The Right Rev Vernon Nicholas officiated, assisted by Father John Dewis.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mrs Sharon Wilson-Gunn, Elsie, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. Ambrose, and Andrew Escaler, Mr Crispian Besley was best man.

The reception was held at Ettington Park Hotel, Aldermaston, and the honeymoon is being spent in Singapore and Australia.

Mr D.S. Griffiths and Miss K.A. Hodgson
The marriage took place on July 30, at the Church of St. James, Caversham, of Mr David Stuart Griffiths, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.C. Griffiths, to Miss Katharine Anne (Katie) Hodgson, elder daughter of the Rev C and Mrs Hodgson, of the Rev P. Burwell and the Rev D. Eaton officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Elizabeth Hodgson, Anne Black, Rebecca Glynn-Jones and Michael Shaw. Mr John Griffiths was best man.

A reception was held at Frensham Heights.

Mr J.M.H. Hutchings and Miss C.J. Jackson
The marriage took place on Saturday, at the Temple Church, London, between Mr Merlin Hutchings, elder son of Mr J.M.C. Hutchings and the late Mrs C. Hutchings, and Miss Carolyn Jackson, elder daughter of Major and Mrs J.G. Jackson, Canon Joseph Robinson officiated.

The bride was given in marriage by her father and was attended by Rosemary Jackson, Eleanor Helps and Freddie Tucker. Mr Roger Adams was best man.

The reception was held at the Army and Navy Club and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Mr T.F. Marking and Miss C. Andriessen-Ten Hutter
The marriage took place on July 23, in Brussels, of Mr Timothy Marking, second son of the late Frank Marking and of Mrs Christine Andriessen-Ten Hutter, second daughter of De Heer and Mevrouw Frans Andriessen-Ten Hutter, of Brussels.

Mr P. Ryan and Miss L. Newell
The marriage took place on July 27, at St Mary's, Cadogan Street, between Mr Philip Ryan, only son of Mr and Mrs A.C.W. Ryan, of Canterbury, Kent, and Miss Laura Newell, only daughter of Dr Peter Newell, of Faversham, Kent, and Mrs Patricia Newell, of Knightsbridge, SW1. Mr George Tancred officiated.

Mr R.C.W. Lallie and Miss A.M. Hornby-Strickland
The marriage took place on Saturday, July 30, at Kendal Parish Church, between Mr Charles Lallie, elder son of the late Lieutenant-Commander William Lallie, Royal Navy, and of Mrs Lottie, of Bowbank House, Pooley Bridge, Cumbria, and Miss Alice Hornby-Strickland, younger daughter of the late Lieutenant-Commander Thomas Hornby-Strickland, Royal Navy, and of Mrs Hornby-Strickland, of Sizergh Castle, Cumbria. The celebrants were Canon John Hodgkinson and Father Jack Dalrymple.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Henry Hornby-Strickland, was attended by Miss Alice de Mauny, Virginia Fitzherbert, Lucy and Mary Elphinstone, Sophie Elphinstone, Thomas and Francis Hornby-Strickland and Andrew Coppock. Mr Timothy Sheldon was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent in Italy.

Rural deprivation

Misery behind the glossy image

By Andrew Morgan

A rare burst of sunshine yesterday lit up the Breckland area of west Norfolk, soon to be a focus of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Rural Areas, which will examine countryside deprivation.

The commission's vice-chairman, the Bishop of Norwich, the Right Reverend Peter Nott, raised the issue at the Lambeth Conference this week after hearing of worldwide rural problems, many of which were strikingly similar to those in areas such as Somerset, Lincolnshire and west Norfolk.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, has criticised those taking a "romantic view" of the countryside who do not realise the amount of deprivation.

The Breckland area around Gooderstone is typical of many English rural areas. Schools, shops, post offices and village halls have all closed and bus services have been cut back, intensifying the isolation.

The Rev Kit Chalkcraft oversees ten churches, the Hilborough group, from his Gooderstone rectory. Ten years ago, three persons ran the parish, but the Church of England's policy of redeployment to inner cities has left him alone in an area of more than 40 square miles with repairs estimated at £255,000.

The district is in Bishop Nott's diocese and the commission is likely to hear evidence about the area. It is a "no man's land" between the towns of Swaffham,

Downham Market, and Mundford for services, particularly medical treatment. The reduced bus service intensifies the problem.

"Poverty in the country means not having a car and, of course, there are those who don't own one", Mr Chalkcraft said. "The community helps old people, but I know of at least two women in their eighties whose husbands were in hospital twenty-two miles away in King's Lynn. They couldn't be with them when they died."

However, Mr Chalkcraft, once a curate in urban Slough, believes that it is the young, often jobless, who suffer even more. Teenagers such as Gregory Button, aged 16, who lives in Gooderstone and finds west Norfolk "dreadful" in terms of public transport, local industry and general amenities, particularly youth clubs.

"We get a lot of older people moving in here from the London area and local families are increasingly moving away to find jobs. There is not much to do and I spend a lot of time weight-training and running. I suppose boredom leads to some mischief, but no more than in a city", he says.

The charity, Action with Communities in Rural England, has noticed rising house prices even in deprived rural areas, often caused by couples retiring from the south. It is not matched by an economic boom and wages — with

agricultural labourers the norm — are low.

"Young people are forced to stay with their parents and the associated problems soon emerge. The situation develops of young people moving to the town and travelling back to the country to work", said Mr Rhys Taylor of ACRE.

Mr Chalkcraft added: "Middle class families, also victims of service reductions, must take their children miles to find facilities. For the young from working class families, with little public transport, the countryside is really tough."

Rural vandalism from teenage boredom comes in waves. Intruders at Gooderstone parish church turned on gas heating cylinders. Valuable items have been stolen from other churches.

Mr Chalkcraft believes that increased rail electrification to Norwich will not affect the social profile of his parish, which is too far west. He thinks the influx of retired Londoners will continue along with the trickle of local depopulation. This will mean less money for the parish and more dereliction of buildings like the village hall at Hilborough, which has now collapsed.

"All the glossy garden books and diaries of Edwardian ladies reinforce the Arcadian image. But the reality is really tough and, in this area, it could get worse before it gets better. The countryside is probably more exposed to the economic climate of the 1980s than many cities", he said.



Crowning moment as Elwyn Edwards is installed as bard by Archdruid Emrys Dendraeth at the 1988 Newport Eisteddfod.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will embark HMV Britannia at Southampton at 1.50 to cruise in the Western Isles.

The Prince of Wales, President of the National Waterways Museum, will open the British Waterways Board's museum in Gloucester at 3.00.

The Princess Royal, President of the Royal Yachting Association, will visit the Excelsior Sailing Trust's trawler *Excelsior*, currently undergoing repair in Lowestoft, at 10.30, and will visit the Flying Fifteen World Championships at Lowestoft at 11.40.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Count Johann von Struensee, physician and politician, Halle, Germany, 1737; Alexander Kinglake, historian, Taunton, 1809; Edward Eyre, explorer in Australia, Hornsea, Yorkshire, 1815; Guy de Maupassant, Dieppe, 1850; Conrad Aiken, novelist and poet, Savannah, Georgia, 1889; Harold Holt, prime minister, Australia, 1906-67; Sydney, 1908.

DEATHS: James Gibbs, architect, London, 1754; Frederick North, 2nd Earl of Guilford, prime minister 1770-82, London, 1792; Richard Howe, Earl of Sandwich, 1731-99; Friedrich Engels, co-author of *Communist Manifesto* (1848), London, 1895; Phil May, caricaturist, London, 1903.

Mr B.S.H. Blacker and Miss C.M. McConnell

The engagement is announced between Barnaby, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Ian David Blacker, of Motcomb, Sussex, and Colleen, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alexander McConnell, of Palmerston North, New Zealand.

Mr I.C. King and Miss C.E. Broadhurst

The engagement is announced between Ian Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs David King, of Topham, Devon, and Clare Elizabeth, daughter of Air Chief Marshal Sir Harry and Lady Broadhurst, of Burdham, Sussex.

Mr R.H. Sims and Mrs L. Whitford

The engagement is announced between Robert, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Sims, of Freshfields, The Ridge, Porlock, Somerset, and Louise, youngest daughter of Sir John and Lady Whitford, of Parsonage Farm, Boxley, Kent.

Mr D.M.S. Barnes and Miss H.E. Day

The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr and Mrs P.R. Barnes, of Igham, near Sevenoaks, and Helen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.H. Day, of Whiteley Wood, Sheffield.

Wrangles are forgotten as the bard is crowned

The red-robed trumpeters heralded a new bard at the Welsh National Eisteddfod yesterday and for a brief moment all the controversy surrounding the future of the language was forgotten. This was the climax of a week of Welshness.

Elwyn Edwards, a one-time slaughterhouse worker from Bala, Gwynedd, became the star of the 1988 Newport Eisteddfod, with a poem about his mother's agonizing death. In an hour-long ceremony of Welsh pageantry at its best the robed bards formed the backdrop for little girls, their hair garlanded in flowers, to perform the Floral Dance for the new bard.

Then he was presented first with the Horn of Plenty — given to the Eisteddfod 90 years ago by the then Lord Tredegar who had been so impressed by the pageantry of the 1897 Newport Eisteddfod. After that the poet was to be presented with the flowers and fruit of the Gwent earth by a maiden in a white satin gown, red cloak and head-dress of woven gold.

It was the time that brings tears to every Welshman's eyes when all that is best in the culture and language of Wales is laid bare.

The winning poem for the chair of Welsh oak carved from a single tree from the grounds of Tredegar House, was an ode in strict metre on the theme "The Storm".

Mr Edwards chose the agony of his mother's death from cancer for his ode which the judges described as a poem of strength and intelligence with a peace and calm coming after a terrible storm.

Earlier in the day members of the newly appointed Welsh Language Board met informally for the first time on the Eisteddfod field.

Mr John Elfed Jones, its chairman, made it clear that his board would waste no time in getting round the table with the Welsh Language Society, whom he said had the same aims as the board: the protection of the Welsh language.

On Tuesday, within hours of the announcement of the new board, Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Wales, was to meet members of the Language Society. He has always said that he would not discuss anything with them until they stopped their campaign of action.

Professor Neil Armstrong, former astronaut, 58; the Right Rev A.H. Atwell, former Bishop of Sodor and Man, 68; Major-General W.H. Hargreaves, physician, 80; Miss Jacquetta Hawkes, archaeologist, 78; Miss Joan Hickson, actress, 82; Mr Alan Howard, actor, 51; Lieutenant-General Sir Peter Inge, 53; Sir Michael

Mr N.A. Everitt and Mrs B.C. Savory

The engagement is announced between Nicholas Anthony, younger son of Mr G.A.L. Everitt, of Minehead, Somerset, and Mrs B.C. Savory, of Devon, and Belinda Catherine, younger daughter of Mr Barham Savory, of The Common Place, Walsingham, Norfolk, and Mrs D. Hoy, of Snowdonham House, Bramley, Surrey.

Mr I.E. Hardie and Dr R.M. Brown

The engagement is announced between Iain, elder son of Colonel R.H. Hardie, OBE, and Dr R.M. Brown, of Church Crookham, Hampshire, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs D.L. Brown, of Weeley, Essex.

Mr J.A. Isaac and Mrs G.M.F. Savage

The engagement is announced between John Anthony Isaac, of Lower Hammonds Farm, Haverley, Surrey, and Georgina Mary Farquhar Savage (nee Higgins), of The Orchard, Honeycott, Mayford, Woking, Surrey.

Mr J.H. Lonsdale and Miss C.J.N. Cochran

The engagement is announced between Hugh, younger son of Lieutenant-Colonel R.T.H. Lonsdale, DSO, MC, of Colford, Somerset, and Mrs Y.M. Lonsdale, of Amport, Hampshire, and Catrona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs W.G. Cochran, of Edinburgh.

Mr P.R. Marsden and Miss A. Edward

The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of the late Mr George Marsden and Mrs Rhoda Marsden, of Crosby, and Amanda, daughter of Mr and Mrs Arnold Edward, of Cheam, Surrey.

Mr I. Mellett and Miss E.A. Hayes

The engagement is announced between Iain, only son of Mr and Mrs Frank Mellett, of Laleham, Middlesex, and Elizabeth Anne, second daughter of Mr and Mrs Francis Hayes, of Llanannor, Cwmrhyll, South Glamorgan.

Mr R.N. Sciamma and Miss F.V. Samuels

The engagement is announced between Richard, youngest son of Mrs B. Simons, and the late Mr M. Sciamma, of Hale, Cheshire, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs M. Samuels, of Dublin.

Mr T. Shields and Miss H. King

The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr and Mrs John Shields, of Mallow, 2 Balbuthe Road, Kilsconquhar, Co. Wick, and Fiona, daughter of Mr and Mrs John King, of "Redlands", New Road, North Bourne, Bournemouth, Dorset.

Mr P.A. Walker-Duncalf and Miss S. Lawson

The engagement is announced between Peter, only son of Mr and Mrs S. Walker-Duncalf, of Cheam, Surrey, and Suzanne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs V. Lawson, of Bookham, Surrey.

OBITUARY

FLORENCE ELDRIDGE

Classic American actress

Florence Eldridge, the distinguished American actress who played with her husband, Fredric March, in many now-classic Broadway plays such as *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, *The Skin of Our Teeth* and *Another Part of the Forest*, died on August 1, aged 86. Her husband died in 1975.

She was an actress who took the leading roles in the major theatrical events of her era and her achievement was the more memorable for the diversity of the characters she so surely portrayed.

She will be best remembered by present day theatre-goers for creating the role of Mary Tyrone in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey Into Night* in the first Broadway production in 1956. Several productions have followed since, but those who saw the original maintain that her artistry ensured it was by far the greatest interpretation extracted from the part of the tragic drug addict.

For it Florence Eldridge was named the best actress of the year by the New York Drama Critics Circle.

She had first established her stature in the 1920s when appearing in plays like Pirandello's *Six Characters in Search of an Author* and *The Cat and the Canary*.

Like many stage actresses she played distinguished roles on the screen but these never put her into the popular stardom category so brilliantly exemplified by her husband.

Some of her admirers felt her devotion to marriage and family meant she had put her career before her own and the American stage suffered thereby.

During the 1930s, when her

husband was a major box-office star, she appeared in several films with him including *The Story of Temple Drake* (1933), based on William Faulkner's *Sanctuary*, *Les Misérables* (again with March, in 1935) and *Mary of Scotland* (1936), in which she played Elizabeth I.

She had met and appeared opposite March in 1927 in *Molnar's The Swan*, and they were married within the year. Then, on a repertory tour, they were not allowed to appear in the same plays together, for managements of the day considered it unromantic to have a man and wife play lovers.

Eldridge was born Florence McKee in Brooklyn. After schooling she decided immediately on an acting career. She made her New York stage debut in the chorus of Jerome Kern's *Rockabye Baby* in 1918.

She had a reputation for being off-stage somewhat hard-boiled, yet many a young and aspiring actress saw her as only enormously gracious and encouraging.

Anecdotes about her abound. In 1942, during the Broadway run of Thornton Wilder's *The Skin of Our Teeth*, she and March carried on an epic feud with their notoriously temperamental co-star, Tallulah Bankhead. Elia Kazan, who was directing, told in his recent autobiography, *A Life*, that nightly, while Florence Eldridge was making her speech, Tallulah would conspicuously comb her hair, endeavouring to upstage her. To retaliate, March stood in the wings, gurgling loudly while Bankhead, in turn, gave her big speech.

MR JACK SWIFT

Mr Jack Swift, who has died aged 74, was an ebullient bookmaker, racehorse owner and property speculator who made a fortune from gambling in all three sectors.

He was outstandingly successful as everyone outside and on the inside well knew. Indeed in 1966 he was able to sell his entire empire of betting shops to the William Hill Organization for a reputed £825,000.

It was a deal which, apart from its financial implications, brought Swift some amusement, since Hill's had initially been disinterested in the new cash betting shops.

Hill's said ruefully at the time: "We did not buy Mr Swift's shops for ourselves. We wanted Mr Swift to come with them."

Swift joined the board of Hill's on which he remained until 1971.

He had been quickly off the mark when the Macmillan

government introduced licensed betting offices in 1961. His Dover Street office was then the largest ready-money establishment in London and a score of other betting shops were established.

Swift owned a number of racecourses, which his son, Brian, rode and later trained. His most successful was Skindale Hotel, winner of the New Stakes at Ascot in 1956.

Orphaned at the age of 12, he became a dog track bookmaker at 15.

With his granuity after service in the RAF in the Second World War he and his wife opened a small starting price betting business in Hounslow, Middlesex.

Within six years, he succeeded in buying out the old established firm of A.E. Brooks Ltd, with West End premises and a distinguished clientele, which Swift widened. This was to be the basis of his business empire.

PROF JOHN CROSS

Professor John Arthur Cross, the first holder of the chair of politics at University College, Cardiff, who died on August 2 aged 61, was a political scientist who will be remembered for producing biographies of two key ministers in inter-war Conservative governments, Sir Samuel Hoare (1977) and Lord Swinton (1982).

There were few startling insights in his writings about British politics but many solid virtues. What he was particularly good at was sorting out the complex matters usually to do with parliament, party discipline, or ministerial resignations, and drawing sensible conclusions.

These were contributions to knowledge from which students of the British system of government still profit. Notable among other works was an authoritative study with Keith Alderman of *The Tactics of Resignation* (1967).

It was his work on the resignation of Hoare in 1935

which brought him into the field of political biography. The result was, as definitive as any could be on Hoare's personality and his contribution to domestic politics.

Cross, as always, had sensible things to say. His scholarship was solid and the book a major contribution to understanding the period.

On the life of the first Lord Swinton Cross provided an account of a much underestimated figure concentrating very largely on his work as a minister. Again it is a study, which will not need to be done again.

Cross entered St John's, Cambridge, directly from grammar school after the Second World War.

After a spell in adult education, he worked in the 1950s at the Central Office of Information. The job in London gave him the opportunity to begin his life of academic research in his spare time.

BISHOP FELIX ARNOTT

Mr Graham Tayer writes: The point in your obituary of Archbishop Arnott (August 1) was very well made as I discovered when making a Radio 4 programme "The British in Venice". He was a rich and enthusiastic source of anecdote on British links with that great city.

The Venetian way of life captured him especially in Italy — and very quickly. As he told me: "I tore up my driving licence and put it in the Grand Canal the first day I was here!" Arnott then proceeded to walk, and look about him

intelligently, just about everywhere in that city. Many tourists, British and otherwise, benefited from his knowledge.

Among the stories he told was how Henry Layard, the nineteenth-century adventurer and ambassador, who retired to Venice, had acquired a Bellini, the portrait of the Sultan Mehmet II, now in the National Gallery, "on spec" for £5. He was about to dine out and did not have time to examine it. Layard was later to bequeath the work to the National Gallery.

MR ROBERT FERRO

Mr Robert Ferro, the American gay novelist, has died at the age of 46 of AIDS only two months after his companion of many years, and fellow-novelist, Michael Grumley, died of the same illness.

They had written a joint work, *Atlantic: The Autobiography of a Search*. Ferro learned to write at the Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa; later he was a member of the New York-based Violet Club for gay writers, whose best known member was Edmund White.

Ferro was not well known outside the United States although his novels *The Family of Max Desir* and *The Blue Star* had a small cult following here.

But *Second Son*, whose publication in America the author lived to see, is due out

in this country later this year. This autobiographical account of a friendship between two men with AIDS has already caught the attention of a number of American critics.

MR TOSHIWO TOKUO

Mr Toshiwo Tokuo, who died on August 4 at the age of 91, helped revitalize Japanese manufacturing industry after the last war.

For six years from 1974 he was the leader of the Japanese business community as chairman of Keidanren — the Federation of Economic Organizations — which groups 1,000 major Japanese companies.

In 1965 he became president of the Toshiba Corporation, the electronics company.

HARRODS

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A superbly shaped Edwardian mahogany side cabinet, previously inland a rich mahogany and oak with a wood side panel.

On display and for sale in our 4th annual furniture exhibition will be a large collection of fine and rare Victorian and Edwardian furniture and objects of art. This will include a 19th century round French marquetry game and a 5ft 6in high fully rigged galleon. You will also find desks, chair seats, gilt mirrors, upholstery, and occasional furniture, many from private homes. The exhibition is from August 6th to October 1st 1988 in the Furniture Theatre, 3rd Floor.

Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1. Tel: 01-730 1234.

Harrods

SUMMER DRINKS

FOCUS

A SPECIAL REPORT

Our experts advise on how to put a sparkle into the quirky old British summer

Cheat with a cheery glass

DIANA LEADBETTER

Great British summers cannot always be guaranteed but no one could accuse Britons of failing to mark the occasion. Wimbledon may be valued off, Glyndebourne a wash-out and the cricket cancelled, but the British bulldog spirit takes in-consequential setbacks such as these in its stride. So, drag out the deck chairs, dust off the picnic basket, you may not have realized it, but summer's here.

One drink more than any other is associated with our summer and that is Pimm's. James Pimm's, a 19th-century London restaurateur, may not have realized that his unusual form of a Gin Sling, flavoured with herbs and liqueurs, would still be so wildly popular a century later, but it is. Purists insist that nothing can come close to Pimm's unique bitter-sweet flavour, especially when it is served simply without a floating fruit salad and parrot garnish.

All that a first class Pimm's requires, say the purists, is one generous measure of the liquor poured into the bottom of a large glass, or a pint mug if you have a free afternoon, plus several cubes of ice and one slice each of lemon and cucumber peel. Leave this to steep for a few minutes and then top it up with chilled sparkling lemonade.

Given that Pimm's is now a weaker blend, even the most fanatical of the Pimm's purists will admit to pepping up their silver tankards with a shot of gin to bring it up to its previous strength. Sainsbury's Oddbins is one of the cheapest outlets for Pimm's, with bottles, priced at £6.95. More economical still, and a fraction of the price of the real thing, is my Cheat's Pimm's.

All you need to do to make up your measure of Cheat's Pimm's is to mix one part red Vermouth (either French or Italian will do) to one part gin, and then top up with fizzy lemonade in the usual way. Sainsbury's has recently enlarged its own-label range of fruit liqueurs, any of which will cheer up a dull glass of summer white wine, if you mix a small teaspoon of liqueur into the drink. There are now three in the range, all produced by the

quality-minded firm of Lejay Lagoute in Dijon. The 50cl, 15 per cent alcohol bottles of these fruit liqueurs cost £3.99 each.

My favourite is still the fine, blackcurrant Crème de Cassis version with its blackcurrant taste, but sweet-tooths will enjoy the exotic blackberry flavours of their Crème de Mûre liqueur, and possibly the rather more spiritry Crème de Framboise, or raspberry liqueur.

Summer barbecue food, if you can keep the coals alight that is, needs light, fruity red wines that can cope with the spices and damp down the fire in your throat. The Victoria Wine Company has an excellent 11.5 per cent '87 Anjou Rouge (£2.49) whose bright crimson purple colour boasts a fresh grassy, raspberry scent backed up by a soft, light, equally fruity palate.

If we have any hot days at all in August, then this Anjou Rouge can easily be served slightly chilled, as can a much finer summer red that is sensational when drunk with lamb - Paul Cinquin's '87 Beaujolais-Région, Domaine des Braves.

M. Cinquin, as anyone who has visited his cellar will know from his awards, is one of that curious breed of Frenchmen who cycle competitively in such races as the Tour de France.

Judging from the superb wines that come from his domaine, he is as skilled and determined in his cellar as he is on the cycle track. Don't miss out on his glorious, vibrant, fruit-packed '87. (André Simon sell it at £5.35.) With the wedding season still here, you might care

to celebrate the nuptials with a few bottles of Charles Heidsieck's new Brut Réserve from the Victoria Wine Company at £11.99. (Majestic stock it for £11.49.) The Gare du Vin, 23 Old Brompton Road, London SW7, and 160 High Street Winchester, is selling this champagne at the discount price of £10.79 until tomorrow. Brut Réserve is a completely revamped non-vintage wine and is a vast improvement on the previous disagreeable thin, non-vintage Brut blend and contains a much higher proportion of aged wines. I loved its pale gold colour and fresh scent and smokey taste.



If you would prefer to serve one of the more pukka grandes marques names then visit Oddbins, which is celebrating a quarter of a century of wine trading this year. Now is the time to make use of the company's generous offer of seven bottles of any champagne on its list (except for Dom Pérignon Rosé) for the price of six.

Good non-vintage champagne buys on Oddbins' lengthy list of more than 30 different champagnes include the fruity Bricout Carte Noire (£10.75), from the little-known champagne house of Bricout & Koch, owned by Kupferberg, the giant German sparkling wine firm,

plus the clean-cut light, appley Laurent Perrier (£12.99).

If your budget can cope, try the fine, flowery Pol Roger non-vintage (£14.49) with its especially creamy mousse, a champagne much admired and drunk by Churchill, so that when the great man died Pol Roger added a black border of mourning to the label.

Finer still, Louis Roederer's glorious new non-vintage blend, Brut Première (£15.99), whose honeyed, biscuity scent is backed up by a very fine, rich biscuity-fruity palate.

If sparkling wine is what you had in mind, Oddbins has a light, fresh

G. F. Cavalier Brut (£2.75) made by the Caves de Wissenbourg, north of Strasbourg and close to Germany. It is excellent.

Peach fizz appears to be the fashionable drink of summer '88 and you can easily make your own by pouring a large dollop of peach juice into the bottom of a tall glass (either pure your own peaches or buy peach nectar - most supermarkets carry the Lindavia brand from Germany, as does Majestic at 95p), and top up the glass with fizz. Here comes summer!

Jane MacQuitty

Chill thought of port on the rocks

In Britain, fortified wines are traditionally considered winter warmers - drinks to go with nuts, nibbles and heavy fruit cake. But in their countries of origin, where climates are notably hotter than ours, they play their part as summer refreshers as well.

What could be more bracing as a summer aperitif than a fresh and properly chilled glass of sharply refreshing dry sherry?

The freshness and the chilling are, though, all-important. Sherry in Britain has suffered a profound depression from stock left lingering far too long on shop shelves, or, even worse, open bottles left to languish at the back of consumers' cupboards.

The summer sherries are fine and manzanilla, both very dry, with a clean, zesty, tang, accentuated in the case of manzanilla by especially high acidity and what some take to be the salty influence of the sea breezes down on the coast at Sanlúcar de Barrameda, where the wine is matured.

Manzanilla is noted for its qualities as an aperitif. Antonio Barbadillo, and Vinicola Hidalgo are leading producers and particularly fine examples of their wines are Hidalgo's pungent and delicate Manzanilla La Gitana, (Henry Townsend & Co. 04946-78291, £3.95; Gerard Harris, 0296 631041, £4.10; Adams, 0502-724222, £4.31) and in a softer, more mature style, though still with that appetizing salt and nuts finish, Barbadillo's Solear Manzanilla Pasada (Hicks & Don, 0373-864723, £4.65; Laymont & Shaw, 0872-70545, £4.80).

For fine the bestselling and widely stocked Tio Pepe is generally a safe bet, with Domecq's La Ina and Garvey's San Patricio close contenders. Sainsbury's Pale Dry Fino (£3.19) has done particularly well in recent blind tastings.

An especially welcome trend is that toward selling fino and manzanilla in half-bottles, which follows years of wine writers suggesting that sherry remnants be re-corked in half-bottles and stored in the fridge until consumed.

This has now spread from the likes of Fortnum & Mason (which has Don Zotto Very Old Fino in halves at £4.15) and the Curran Wine Co (the same at £3.60) to Majestic Wine Warehouses, whose halves include San Patricio at £4.25, and Sainsbury, which has halves of its own-label Manzanilla in 225 branches at £1.75.

Port, Britain's national post-prandial tipple, is now almost demoted to a Christmas treat for most British drinkers. Our European neighbours take more and more of the product, Belgians drinking it as an aperitif, the French drinking it with ice.

However, you might think, just that is how they do it in Oporto too, where ruby is served chilled, young tawny on the rocks with a twist of orange, and white port with ice and lemon.

Cockburn's has launched a new brand of white port, Light White (retailing at about £5.99 in Tesco and elsewhere) in hope of developing a market for white port here as light summer drinking. However, it is open to anybody to make long summer drinks, also with the fruity young ruby and tawny wines widely available.

Finally, even the drier Madeira styles, Sercial and Verdelho, make pleasant summer aperitifs, especially on the cooler evenings.

Oddbins has made a special push with Madeira lately and has Cossart & Gordon Five-Year-Olds at £5.99, 10-Year-Olds at £11.25, and as a special treat, Blandy's Verdelho Solera 1890 at £25.49.

Robin Young

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Most Vinho Verde exported to Britain is, it appears, sweetened a little, which is a pity. It is true that a touch of sweetness does take off the edge, but then the wine no longer slips across the palate like spring water. We found a better way to take away any risk of tannin... buy Vinho Verde from the Valley of Felgueiras.

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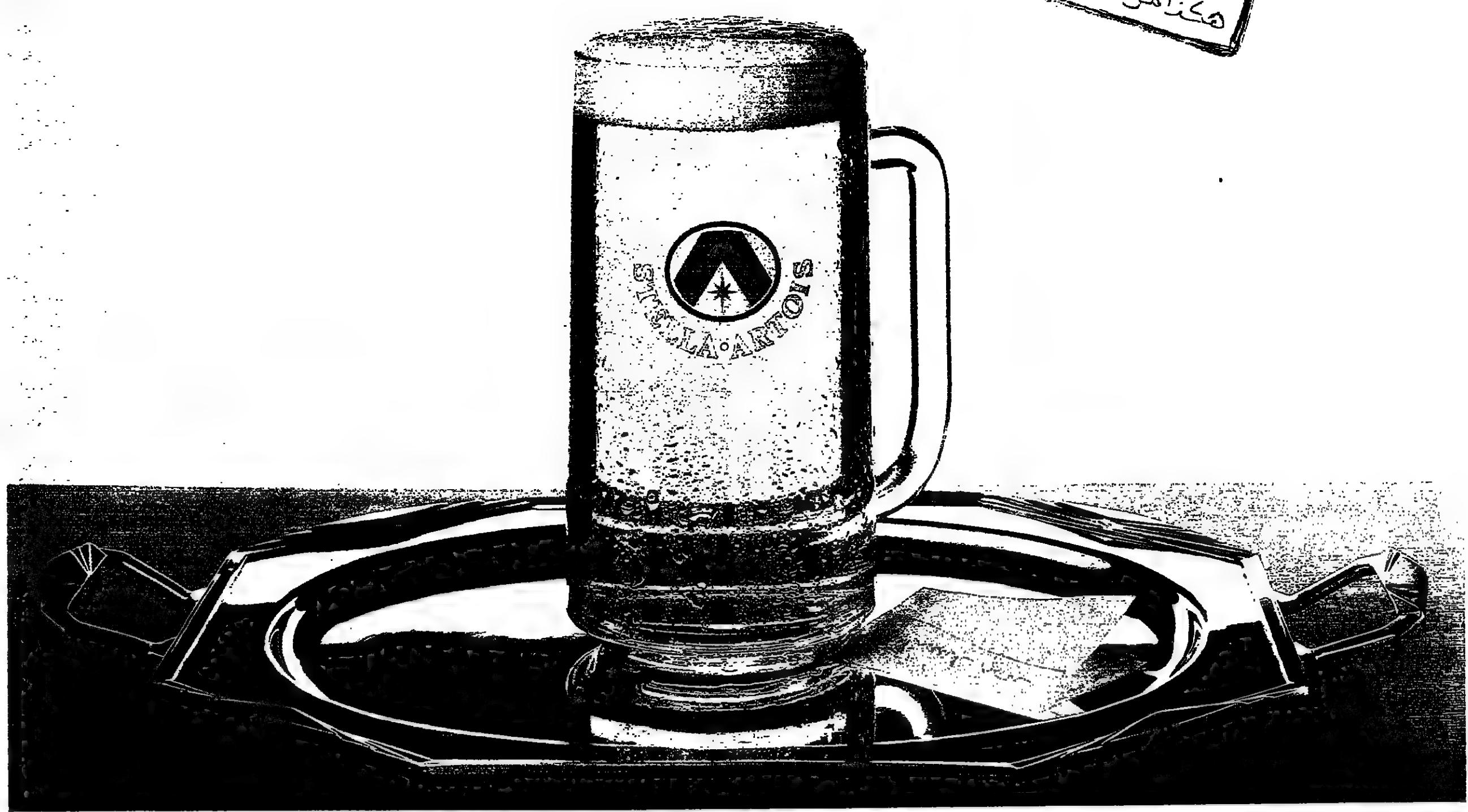
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Can you?

SUMMER DRINKS/2

FOCUS

Better red than hot and thirsty

The days of red wine being drunk only in winter are over — at least, they should be, writes Robin Young

There is a psychological bent toward supposing that red wines are for the winter. It may be because we associate red with the emblems of winter warmth — Father Christmas's coat, holly berries, glowing embers and electric fires.

But there are just as many reasons to associate red with summer — redcurrants, strawberries, raspberries for example. And it is the ripe, juicy flavours of these red berry fruits that are reflected in red wines that are ideal for summer drinking.

These are not the long-lived classic claret and their heavy-weight equivalents — wines with a heavy dose of preservative tannin that will taste harsh and austere if they are drunk cool. Instead they are the lighter-bodied red wines intended to be drunk while still fresh, fruity and young.

Their sharp, refreshing fruit flavours are actually enhanced and concentrated when they are served cool or lightly chilled.

Start with an inexpensive experiment. Go to Sainsbury and buy a bottle of its Vin de Pays de la Vallée du Paradis, from the area around Carcassonne. It costs £1.99.

They have rather hotter summers around Carcassonne than we do, so it is not so

surprising that they make red wines that can be enjoyed lightly chilled in hot weather.

This one, which includes Grenache and Syrah in its blend, is extremely pleasant, easy summer drinking with the straightforward appeal of those sweet, ripe summer fruit flavours.

Served cool it is an ideal, unfussy wine for a light chicken lunch or a picnic. You can prove the same with the redcurrant Vin de Pays du Gard from Asda (£1.85), move upmarket with the soft and gentle Château Lavore 1986 Coteaux du Languedoc from Tanners of Shrewsbury (0743 232007) at £2.63, and the lingering, plummy, spicy flavours of the 1986 Domaine de Belvetz Cotes du Vivarais from Adams of Southwold (0502-724222) at £3.05.

Or you can widen your range further with Marks & Spencer's St Michael Claret (£3.99 a litre, which equates to £3 a bottle) in which the grassy, red-currant tones of the Cabernet Franc grape predominate.

Do not be put off by the metal screw-top on this last — another "sacrilege" which, like cooling, is perfectly permissible with wines that are made for prompt consumption.

Cabernet Franc is the grape

that makes most of the Loire's classic red summer wines, and there are some lovely examples about this summer.

Saumur Champigny is all the rage in France just now and Harrods stocks Bouvet's vigorously racy Saumur Champigny Rouge 1986 at £4.99.

The wine is a perfect balance of plump fruit flavour and juicy acidity.

But for Cabernet Franc at its most gracious and elegant go for Couly-Duthet's 1985 Domaine René Couly Chiron, at £5.98 from Berry Bros. & Rudd (01-839 1841), a prestige cuvee from a top producer.

For the silky and appetizingly sweetish flavour of summer Pinot Noir, I would suggest the delicately raspberry-like Bourgogne Clos des Chenôves 1985 by the exuberantly successful Cave-Cope-

It tastes, by some miracle of wine-making technology, like a bumptious Beaujolais — ideal for the season

relative of Buxy (Justerini & Brooks, 01-493 8721, £4.86; Threshers, £4.99) or the same Co-op's very similar Grande Réserve élevée en fûts de chêne, from Barnes Wine Shop, (01-878 8673), at £5.25. Summer wines do not always come from classic grapes. Tesco has succeeded in

a task many would have thought impossible: finding a really good German red wine and putting it on sale from British supermarket shelves.

The 1986 Kapellener Kloster Liebfrauenberg Dornfelder QBA Trocken (£3.19) is quite a mouthful in wine as well as words. Dornfelder (b. 1956) is the most promising of Germany's new red grape varieties, nicely fulfilled in this fruity scented and attractively flavoured deep ruby coloured wine. Try it with summer pork or chicken, cool or chilled.

Italy's favourite summer red is Bardolino from the banks of Lake Garda near Verona.

Two fine examples available in the pale, tawny chianti style are the Classico Superiore 1986 by Guerrieri-Rizzardi (Barwell & Jones, 0473 231723 or 01-493 3997, £3.63; also on promotion at Fortnum & Mason, £3.75), and 1986 Fraternali Portolupi (Winecellars, 01-871 3979, £3.35; The Market, £3.69).

These are dark red wines with pungency and bite that will go well chilled with fish. Fraternali Portolupi also does a first-rate rosso (same stockists and prices), a strawberry and toffee confection that will be excellent served cool with bean or pasta salads.

For a weightier, more rumbustious Italian offering, the Dolcetto di Ovada Trionzo 1985 by Giuseppe Poggio (Adams, £5.75) is a sturdy, concentrated wine bursting with fruit flavour and good to go cool with summer grills and stews.



Tasting Beaujolais: Robin Young, left, Don Hewison (wine-bar owner) and Jane MacQuitty

The best of the cracklingly good 1987 Beaujolais for current drinking is Alain Passot's elegantly scented and juicy flavoured, Chiroubles Domaine de la Grosse Pierre (Haynes Hanson & Clark, 01-736 7878, £56.30 by the case, £5.20 bottle; Winecellars

£61.80 by the case, £5.15 bottle). But for a confusing Beaujolais taste-alike you might try cooling a bottle of Rosemount Estate Diamond Reserve Hunier Valley Dry Red 1986 (Tesco or Asda, £3.99). Not only does it come from

Australia instead of France, it is a blend of Cabernet Sauvignon and Shiraz.

That does not prevent its tasting, by some miracle of modern wine-making technology, like a bumptious Beaujolais. Ideal for summer drinking.

Be it rain or shine, white seems right

A cool, refreshing glass of white wine may not seem the most appropriate drink in a damp squib of a summer such as this one, writes Jane MacQuitty. But I suspect that whether it shines or pours, we still all consume more white wine than usual during the summer months.

Certainly those classic English summer treats of asparagus, salmon and strawberries all marry rather more successfully with white wines, than they do with red.

Straightforward, inexpensive white thirst-quenchers that will not make you feel grim the next day, are always more difficult to track down than their red-wine sisters and are, I think, the most tricky wine recommendations to make of all.

An appetizing white gulping wine for summer is the '87 Domaine de Planterieu, a Vin de Pays from Gascony, whose fresh, young, barley sugar and pear drop-like style is more expensive than the Bordeaux Blanc at £2.35 a bottle but the 1.5-litre version (£4.55), also from Waitrose, is better value.

Gascony has surpassed itself in recent years with well-made wines such as this, a great achievement considering the humble grape varieties with which they are made. This '87, incidentally, will probably be at its most luscious and tongue-tingling best in a few months' time, when these youthful, sweet-shop-like characters will have dissipated and the true flowery flavour of the wine will shine through.

Nobody has written to me this year to ask for picnic wine suggestions. If they had, I probably would have recommended the '87 Minervois

Blanc, Dom Maris from Majestic Wine Warehouses (£2.59), with its pale gold colour and appealing, light apricot scent and taste. Good value and something of a rarity as this part of the Midi mostly produces red wine.

Majestic has also just brought in a special parcel of white wine from leading Bordeaux merchant Nathaniel Johnston, Prince Pirate Blanc, Cuvée AL, on sale at just £1.99 a bottle is about as cheap as you are going to get in the white wine stakes these days and is a predominantly Sémillon wine topped up with a little Sauvignon.

I much enjoyed its fresh green, musky bouquet and lively, verdant palate: summer '88's best bargain white-wine buy.

Modestly priced white wines are fine for parties and picnics but more elaborate meals and occasions deserve finer wine. One of my favourite middle price range white wines, is the wondrous '86 Domaine du Tarquet, Cuvée Bois, Barnes Wine Shop, 51 Barnes High Street, London SW13 £2.89.

This is another Gascon white but what differentiates it from other white wines from this region is its sojourn in oak barrels giving the wine its rich, golden colour and wonderful, perfumed oak smell plus a delicious oaky-fruit palate. Tarquet's flavours are so pronounced and distinctive that you may not like this wine on your first tasting of it but, I promise, you will on the second.

Not dissimilar to the Tarquet style is the fine '86 Bourgogne Blanc Clos des Chenôves from the admirable Groupement de Producteurs



Co-operative at Bury in Burgundy. Like the Tarquet this wine is also aged in oak and has a deep-golden colour plus a very fine, waxy, pineapple palate (Threshers £5.99). Just the wine to serve with creamy, full-flavoured summer dishes such as *vietto tonnato*.

Portugal has its own version of a fine oak-aged white wine, partly made from Chardonnay grapes by a talented Australian wine-maker, the amazing '86 Catarina (Winecellars £4.19, Oddbins £3.69), the finest white wine to come out of Portugal. With its elegant, ripe, oaky scent and taste, it is well worth seeking out. Do not let this wine's kitsch label put you off.

Fresh salmon, with a generous dollop of hollandaise sauce, cries out for a first-class, big, buttery Chardonnay to accompany it. Australia and California now have some stylish examples of top-notch Chardonnay.

One of Majestic's latest purchases is the delicious, rich, buttery-oaky '87 Allandale Chardonnay from the Hunter Valley, north of Syd-

ney, whose distinctive lemon-clove aspect puts it firmly in the Australian Chardonnay camp (£5.49).

California Chardonnay such as the splendid '86 Newton Chardonnay with its spicy-buttery perfume and cinnamon-like oak-infused palate, from the Napa Valley, can be as rich as their Australian counterparts but they often have a sherbet-like intensity on the palate as this one does (Laytons, 20 Midland Road, London NW1, £9.39).

Fresh, soft, summer fruits such as strawberries, raspberries and peaches certainly deserve luscious sweet white wines to accompany them.

And with all this wet weather about, you may need to cheer up bruised and battered fruit that is past its best. This is swiftly and deliciously done by simply splashing a glass of a fine, sweet white wine such as the Tolly's glorious '87 Late Harvest Muscat (Oddbins £2.99) with its delicate rose-petal scent and light, grapey, non-cloying palate over the fruit.

"The champagne of the North" is said to have been the verdict of Napoleon's troops when they discovered the sharply acidic Weissbier of Berlin. In its home city, this style of beer is always served in an over-sized champagne saucer, and laced with essence of woodruff or raspberry syrup. The Bavarians sometimes add a slice of lemon to their own style of Weiss or Welzen beer.

The Brussels-like similar seasonal summer beers, *Framboise* and *Kriek*, in which the fruits (raspberry or cherry) are added by the brewer as a secondary fermentable material. These are beers, rather than wines, because their original base is grain, with fruit added as an afterthought.

The champagne-like acidity in all these styles derives from the use of a particular grain, wheat, in addition to the usual malted barley. Each can now be found in Britain, in specialty outlets ranging from the Beer Shop, 8, Piccadilly Street, Hoxton, near the Old Street Underground, to the pub-club-merchant, the Masons Arms, Strawberry Bank, in Carmel Fell, Cumbria.

In the days of rustic brewing even the British made the odd wheat beer, and the style has just been revived here. The regional brewer Vanx, with pubs in the North-East and Yorkshire, is giving a trial run to its own *Weizenbier* in selected houses. These include a beer-lover's favourite, the Princess Louise in Holborn, London.

Wheat beers, the most exotic of summer brews, are technically less rather than lagers. A unique hybrid between these styles was improvised during the Gold Rush in the American West.

In the absence of refrigeration, beer was fermented warm, but the yeasts available were of the lager type, which prefer colder temperatures. The resultant beer had such a lively head that it was said to "steam" when the cask was opened. The only surviving example of the style, Anchor Steam Beer from San Francisco, has just entered the

Beers with the taste of bubbly

British market through Majestic Wine Warehouses. It is today a product of outstanding quality, with the fruitiness of an ale, the cleanliness of a lager, and a wonderfully aperitif-style, hoppy dryness.

There is also a newish range of beers called Newquay Steam, from Cornish Breweries. In this instance, Steam Beer is a contrived brand name, and not an indication of style. The selection includes a wide variety of styles, including ales, stouts and lagers.

Faust, from Eldridge Pope of Dorset, and Samuel Smith's Natural Lager, from Yorkshire, are also among the more authentic-tasting British interpretations. "Natural" beers, made without preservatives, are inevitably more vulnerable to damage from heat and light.

The term "lager" is German for "store" but refers to the period of cold maturation at the brewery. This procedure gives a good lager its characteristic cleanliness. The term has nothing to do with colour.

The original lagers, made empirically by the Bavarians during the 1400s but not perfected until the early 1800s, were dark brown. This style of *dark* ("dark") lager is still widely available in Bavaria, but is rarely sighted here.

All lagers were dark until a renowned Viennese brewer produced a translucent, amber-red example. Austrian colonial adventures in Spanish America left Mexico with one or two Vienna-style lagers. One example, Dos Equis, is imported to Britain by Maison Carre, and is often found in Tex-Mex restaurants here. Its malty spiciness makes a good complement to chili.

The first pale, golden-coloured lager was produced by

the municipal brewery of Pilsen, Bohemia, in 1842. Pilsner Urquell ("original source") is still made by the same brewery, and is quite widely available in Britain.

The removal of this beer inspired brewers everywhere to produce golden, hoppy lagers that they call Pilsners (or Pilsener or Pils), usually at a similar gravity, about 1048, with around 5 per cent alcohol by volume. This has become the standard for a classic lager of the Pilsner type.

The other great brewing town of Bohemia was called Budweis during the days of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and is known in Czech as Ceské Budějovice. Its Budvar brewery exports its own Budweiser beer to Britain.

In the late-1800s, the beers of the town inspired the American Budweiser, which is now produced under license in Britain. Both the Czech and American beers are sweetish, pale lagers, of a similar alcohol content, but the latter is lighter in body.

In general, German Pilsner-style lagers are fullest flavoured in flavour, followed by those of Belgium, while the Dutch and Danish examples are milder, the Americans very light and the Australians sweetish.

Because import duties are very high and distribution difficult in a tied-house system, only the true specialities tend to be imported. Most mass-market "foreign" lagers are actually made in Britain, under licence. Some brewers adopt both practices; Lowenbrau Special Export is shipped to Britain, but the same brewer's Draught Strong and Pilsener are brewed under licence, for example. Some such British-brewed products, such as Stella Artois, resemble the original; others do not.

If all of this is too confusing, the recommended course of action is to stick to Guinness, half-and-half with champagne, or, of course, the perfect summer brew.

Michael Jackson
The author's Pocket Guide to Beer is published by Mitchell Beazley, £4.95.

Good health by the bottle

Organic wines are good for you, writes Jane MacQuitty. At least that is what organic wine producers would have us all believe. But it is worth remembering that these wholesome-sounding wines are not made completely without the use of chemical preparations and treatments, merely with the minimum that the vine grower or wine maker can manage.

And until the EEC finishes preparing an organic wine standard, the producers of these wines and their consumers are likely to remain somewhat hazy about what does, and does not constitute an organic wine.

Currently any wine that bills itself as an organic wine, or *vin biologique* as the French call them, follows the basic principle that no, or as little as possible, chemical fertilizers, herbicides or pesticides will have been used in its production.

What this means is that manure and compost are used to fertilize organic vineyards; plant and herbal-based sprays are used to protect the vines against diseases, and vine pests are kept in check with their own natural insect or bacterial predators.

In the cellar, natural yeasts found on the surface of grape skins are responsible for the fermentation, not inoculated yeast strains, and traditional, old-fashioned methods of clarifying and preparing the wine are used, instead of modern fast-working chemical treatments.

By adhering to methods such as these, organic grape growers hope to return to a more natural balance in the vineyards, where vines are not weakened by over-enthusiastic use of chemical treatment, and are allowed gradually to become resistant to disease. Vital vine treatments such as spraying with the traditional Bordeaux mixture, a copper sulphate solution which protects the vine from downy mildew, are allowed however.

Similarly, in the cellar organic wine makers hope to avoid unnecessary chemical treatments altogether and use

Organic wine merchants like to state that their wines are fuller and richer in flavour than non-organic wines; alas, I have not found this the case

the smallest amounts possible of the essential ones such as sulphur and then, in this case, using only natural flowers of sulphur rather than the manufactured variety. Organic wine producers remain convinced that what can be achieved with chemicals can also be produced naturally, admittedly with rather more time and effort.

Idealistic these principles may be, but in an increasingly health-conscious age, it is reassuring to know that organic wine producers are prepared to attempt an alternative winemaking route to the scientific, accepted, widespread and chemical-based norm.

This is reassuring, especially so when such unappetising winemaking additives and treatments as dried oxblood and sturgeons' bladders are currently allowed by the EEC, as are the much more worrying substances of ammonium sulphate and potassium ferri-cyanide.

Sceptical, non ecology-minded wine drinkers may feel that if all organic wine producers are trying to do is to reproduce the necessary chemical treatments naturally, and if the end result is the same, what on earth is the point of drinking organic wine?

Those with allergic reaction to wine, like asthmatics, may be helped by switching to the organic variety.

Organic wine merchants are fond of stating that their wines are fuller and richer in flavour than non-organic wines, with more interest and character. From the organic wine tastings that I have attended I have not found this to be the case.

However, interested organic-wine consumers should contact Lavinia Gibbs-Smith at 19a Wetherby Gardens, London SW5; the Organic Wine Company Limited, PO Box 81, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, or West Heath Wine, West Heath, Pirkbright, Surrey.

Germany calling but do we listen?

German wines have been attracting noisy fire from some critics: big guns lately, writes Robin Young.

West Germany's commercially oriented wine producers have been publicly lambasted by the Wine Society for "churning out vast quantities of rather tasteless, uninteresting wines" and by Mark Savage, Master of Wine, of Windrush Wines, for "flooding world markets with cheap sugar-water of dubious origin".

John Armit, a London wine merchant, complains that every year he wines about the romantic Rhine and its elegant wines, with their fragrance of spring flowers and honey, only to sell a few cases of fine German wine and vast quantities of Liebfraumilch and Bocksbeutel.

So is it their fault for producing rubbish, or ours for drinking it? A bit of both probably, since there can be no doubt that British consumers do fight shy of long and complicated names, and latch firmly on to those that are easiest to remember. Nor does the sweet nature of the best German wines

necessarily appeal to customers who have learnt to love dry Chardonnay and Sauvignon.

The way in which German wines have lost the confidence of the trade could not have been more eloquently shown than by a blind tasting, which I organized, devoted to white wines to drink by themselves.

German wines are not particularly good with food (although Auslese can be good with ham puddings) and this should have been an open invitation to retailers to submit their favourite German offerings. Instead among more than 30 submissions, only two wines were from Germany.

This is carrying reaction too far. We still take more than half of all West Germany's exported wines. Germany provides a full third of all the still and sparkling wine we drink. And Germany's wines, when properly made, do make ideal, refreshing summer drinking.

Those who are willing to give Germany another chance could start by going to Littlewoods, a



supermarket chain which has had a special reputation for German wines for some years. Its Piesporter Michelsberg, £2.39, actually retrieves a little credit for a much-abused name, while the St Johanner Abtey Auslese from the Rheinhessen, at £3.39, is a good introduction to fair German quality.

So it can be done, even in bulk outlets, and there are occasional good selections to be had, also at supermarkets, with astute buying teams such as those of Waitrose, Tesco and Sainsbury. Look for the word Riesling on the label, clearly indicating that the wine has been made with Germany's classic grape. Wines without it have usually, though not always, been made with inferior Sylvaner or Müller-Thurgau and cannot hope

to reproduce the clean-cut elegance, flowery scent, lively flavour and steely backbone that Riesling achieves.

Make it a general rule also, in Germany's case, to insist not only on "quality" but quality "mit Prädikat" (with distinction). The Germans count the vast bulk of their wine good enough to qualify as "Qualitätswein", to the extent that the word is now seriously devalued.

The Prädikat to look for is *Kabinett* for light, delicate aperitif wines; *Spätlese* for wines made with slightly later picked grapes, which give a bit more body; *Auslese* for richer, fuller wines with more flavour, which can be drunk with turkey, ham, duck, *file gras*, fruit tarts and oriental dishes such as sweet and sour pork or Peking

Wine bottled by the grower is coming with a good recommendation

duck, as well as on their own: *Beerenauslese* for intensely sweet wines from individually chosen over-ripe berries; and *Trockenbeerenauslese* for the richest and sweetest dessert wines with pungent, honeyed, over-powering flavour.

To avoid run-of-the-mill, commercially oriented "lolly" water, look for the word *Erzeugerabfüllung*, which shows that the wine has been bottled by the grower. This is a good recommendation, but note that co-operatives (some of which — such as the Zentral-Kellerei Badischer Winzer-genossenschaften — are very good) are allowed to describe all their wines thus.

For consistently high standards, though, it is advisable to concentrate your search among merchants such as Corney & Barrow (12, Helmet Row, London EC1V 3JL; tel: 01-251 4051), that are still prepared to put their energy and enthusiasm behind selling those few cases of really fine German wines from the greatest growers on the Rhine, Neckar, Mosel, Saar and Ruwer.

Other firms with exceptionally strong German lists are O. W. Loeb, 64 Southwark Bridge

Road, London SE1 OAS, 01-928 7750; Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver Street West, Colchester, Essex CO1 1JA, 0206-67261; Adams, The Crown, High Street, Southwold, Suffolk IP18 6DP 0502-724222, and Henry Townsend & Co, York House, Oxford Road, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire HP9 1UJ, 04946-78291.

Estates, with unimpeachable reputations for exceptionally fine wine include Langwerth von Simmern, Dr Weil and Staats-winegüter Eltville, for the ripe peachy wines of the classic Rheingau; Balbach and Guntum for the best of Rheinhessen; Dr Bürklin-Wolf, Bassermann-Jordan and Reichsgraf von Buhl for the luscious spicy flavours of Rheinpfalz; Reichsgraf von Plettenberg and the Staatlichen Weinbau-domanen Niederhausen-Schloss-böckelheim in the Nahe; the Friedrich Wilhelm Gymnasium, the Bischöfliches Weingüter, and J. J. Prüm for the light and refreshingly acidic wines of the Mosel; and von Schubert, Reichsgraf von Kesselstatt, von Hovel, and the Vereinigte Hospiten for the thrilling freshness of the Ruwer and steel-sharp zest of the Saar.

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TELEVISION

Still open to debate

Discussions about the rights and wrongs of the state of Israel bring out the best or the worst in people, depending on your point of view. The last play in the current David Mercer season, *A Dinner of Herbs* (BBC2) was one long, bizarre, often violent and ultimately unconvincing such discussion.

It was unconvincing because it was set within the strained formal context of a love affair, or at least a relationship, between a quietly committed Israeli teacher Nadav (Yoram Gal) and a noisily intrusive visiting journalist Jane (Fiona Victory).

Nadav's allegiance to Israel was neither fundamentalist nor unquestioning, but it did result in a machine gun in the cupboard and periods of service in the Army. Jane's self-righteous opposition to all things Israeli seemed to be based on the justification that as she was a journalist she understood the world rather better than anyone else around him.

We saw her having an unproductive interview with an Israeli government spokesman, and debating with Nadav's dying father. She ranted against the historical justification for the Israeli state and against their attitude to the Arabs.

We are told that Mercer based her character on himself, and if that is so he must have had a painful kind of self-hatred to endure, since she emerged as deeply unsympathetic, belligerent and arrogant. Nadav, on the other hand, was quietly dignified, preoccupied with his young daughter, and often silent (a stance which she typically interpreted as progress, smug and pompous).

Whether Mercer meant this one-sided relationship to slant the discussion in a pro-Israeli direction it would be hard to say. Anziblographically, his own anti-Israeli views must have changed before his death, and I do not know why this play has remained unperformed until now.

But the result was not to leave the scales evenly balanced. It left me feeling that only those who live through the situation in Israel have any right to interpret it. Excellent performances throughout, though Fiona Victory's Jane never quite attained the level of brazen flamboyance demanded by the script.

William Holmes

John Higgins reports on the opening opera of the Salzburg Festival, conducted by Riccardo Muti

Mozart's winning score

OPERA

La clemenza di Tito
Salzburg Festival

Whether by accident or design, the first three operas in this year's Salzburg Festival have all been concerned with forgiveness. In the small Festspielhaus, Angelina has been magnanimous to her step-father and step-sisters in *La cenerentola*. Next door at the large Festspielhaus there is conciliation, perhaps only temporary, all round in the last act of *Le nozze di Figaro*. While up above, in the Felsenreitschule at the opening performance, there was the pardon of Tito Vespasiano himself towards those who would kill him, in *La clemenza di Tito*.

A certain amount of musicological squabbling has been going on over whether Mozart, in his final opera, wrote a paean of praise to royalty who forgave the sins of their subjects, or whether indeed he was encouraged to show a fairly unsavoury emperor in a benign light. A third suggestion is made by Peter Brenner, who stages Salzburg's new production: the milk of kindness which, rather improbably, started flowing through the veins of Titus in his middle years, led to the softness that encouraged plots around him.

Quite a lot of this seems designed to make Titus a rather more interesting character than in fact he is. After the conspirators have tried to carry out their fell deed at the end of Act One, all that remains to be seen in Act Two is whether they will be punished. And the answer to that question is given in the title of the opera.

But, if Titus himself is a none too rewarding part, there remain those of the evil Vitellia, aspiring to the throne of Rome, and Sesto, who is cajoled into carrying out her wishes. And there is, of course, the score itself. Mozart at his most elevated, bending and twisting the old-fashioned form of opera seria into new shapes to suit his art.

In *Clemenza* the conductor has to be supreme and in Riccardo Muti, conducting his third opera here, Salzburg have found an outstanding exponent of the work. It is sometimes overlooked that

Crowning moment: Carol Vaness (left) as Vitellia, with Delores Ziegler as Sesto, in Peter Brenner's Salzburg production of *La clemenza di Tito*

Muti is a great Gluck interpreter, dating back to his *Orfeo* at Florence well over a decade ago. But it is the spirit of Gluck that Muti brings to *Clemenza*, not just the emotional outpouring of Vitellia's Rondo "Non più fiori", but the colouring which at times makes the solo instrument as important as the human voice.

Comparisons, inevitably, will be made between Muti's *Clemenza* and the one of 1976 with which James Levine made his opera debut here. If memory serves, Levine was lighter and — dare one say it of this roly-poly figure? — leaner, while Muti is grander and more solemn.

Comparisons too are going to be made between Jean-Pierre Ponnelle's staging of that year and what Peter Brenner has achieved now. Here the divisions are much clearer cut. Ponnelle's *Clemenza*

was quite simply one of the best uses ever made of the Felsenreitschule. Brenner's production is no more than formal in a rather middle-aged way.

It is designer, Enrico Job, blocks off the centre of the stage with a massive circular curtain, green as the Salzburg fields after a thunderstorm of which there have been plenty of tall obelisks. It is a handy device for changing scene, but it totally destroys the symmetry of the Felsenreitschule itself.

A massive staircase is built to the left of the stage, but scarcely used. Nor does Brenner employ much those corners of the playing area which are ideal for the exchanging of confidences: when Anzio and Sesto get together for the Duetto "Deh prendi", which

suggests that they are as much in love with one another as with anyone else, it comes as a mighty relief. Much of the rest is more regal gesture very handsomely dressed, as though we were listening to Racine rather than Mozart.

The grandest vocal sounds come from Carol Vaness as Vitellia, who has now reined in her tendency to sing too loudly. She has always had the power to express vocal emotion — and Vitellia is not short of feelings, whether vicious or repentant — but this is now matched by notable vocal control. A very Gluckian performance, much in line with Muti's reading.

Delores Ziegler as Sesto has not got Vaness's fire-power, but she makes a credible tomboyish figure riven by doubts and delivers each number with grave sincerity. A mezzo new to me, Martha Senn, is

well contrasted as a *faux-naïf* Anzio, who gets his way through wide-eyed adolescent charm — an artist to be watched.

The other half of the *Clemenza* sextet of principals is less impressive. Gosta Winbergh's tenor has the necessary declamatory weight for Titus, but like others before him he fails to hew out any character from the role.

Christine Barbaux sings Servilius well enough but lets her remain a cypher. Laszlo Polgar makes it all too obvious that Publio is not Mozart's most rewarding bass part.

No, this was a *Titus* where the Vienna Philharmonic with Muti and the Chorus (under Walter Hagen-Groll) carried the day and the clemency was required from time to time on stage.

There are further performances on August 7, 13, 21 and 28.

Night music

Roger Woodward
Kensington Town Hall

This was inspired programming for a late evening of musical contemplation, and indeed inspired playing. Roger Woodward began with the Baroque sonata, a work which he goes on revealing as huge and uncomfortable, beginning with such a gathering of creative and re-creative energy, then running around on episodes of note repetition that become almost unbearable precisely because the expressive effect is not forced but left simply inevitable. He comes at last to the long stretch of negation that is what the piece is about, though of course the broken gestures, the thinned textures and the silences here gain their meaning from the contrast with the abundance that has gone before.

This was a long performance, lasting a little over 50 minutes, but conveyed throughout with intense concentration, total confidence in every move, and a strong feeling for the drama of Baroque, for the desperation in a sudden high motif coming in the middle of baroque rumination, or for the crushing malignancy of the lowest register. Fifteen years after the composer's death it remains regrettable that he was unable to fulfil his plan to write another sonata for Woodward, even though a second Baroque sonata is among the most unimaginable of might-have-beens.

Two Stockhausen piano pieces, Nos. 9 and 11, provided a striking contrast, for where the Baroque has immense singleness of purpose and strength of movement through all its discontinuities, Stockhausen, like Messiaen, finds no problem in being disjointed and static. These were big, empowered and scintillating performances, but there was a sense, even with a will like Woodward's at work, of whistling in the dark. Nor have I ever heard it made so clear that the composer of *Licht* was already there, harmonically, in his music of the 1950s.

Paul Griffiths

CONCERTS

Outline
WaltonBBCWSO/Thomson
Albert Hall/Radio 3

For a variety of reasons, Walton's opera *Troilus and Cressida* has never quite become a popular success. Yet there is much fine and attractive music in this score, and it is very good news that the orchestral suite which Christopher Palmer has fashioned from it is so skilfully executed. It is arranged in four sections, tracing the action of the opera in outline.

The third section gives us the love music, at first warm and gently ardent, but soon rising to an orgasmic consummation, described by the composer as "pornographic". The fourth section includes an episode in Walton's familiar martial vein. The suite deserves to be heard as regularly in the concert hall as the Sea Interludes from Britten's *Peter Grimes* (which it echoes more than once). True, the arrangement is not the composer's own; on the other hand, it is more substantial than the *Grimes* interludes, and I have little doubt that the composer would have approved.

The BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, which has long since developed into a first-rate band, played excellently under Bryden Thomson. They also passed the tests they were set in two more conventional repertory items: Prokofiev's *Lieutenant Kijé* Suite and Holst's *Egdon Heath*. The former calls for acute rhythmic precision and flawless solo work, both of which were forthcoming, not least from the uncredited cornet player.

Now that it is becoming academically respectable for those of us who are Tchaikovsky admirers to venture out of the closet, it is more vital than ever that the old war-horse of the First Piano Concerto is given sympathetically. Sadly, Jean-Philippe Collard's approach was, for the most part, good — old-fashioned keyboard pounding. The magical, impressionistic soundscape of the slow movement was briefly hinted at, but I doubt if it was enough to win the work many new admirers.

Barry Millington

Cowboy capers

DANCE

Dance Theatre of Harlem
Coliseum

Dance Theatre of Harlem has always ranged far in its search for suitable ballets, and thereby made some interesting rediscoveries. Not least the new staging of *Billy the Kid*.

Created for Ballet Caravan in 1938, it was an example of Lincoln Kirstein's belief that American ballet should take inspiration from American history and folklore. Aaron Copland's score draws upon traditional cowboy songs, and Eugene Loring's choreography shows Billy's violent life as part of the opening up of new frontiers. In the processional beginning and end, this seems portentous, but elsewhere it makes

for vivid effect and even humour.

The ballet has been mounted from notation, and a sharper producer's hand could put more edge on its details and performance. Donald Williams gives Billy a stubborn pride, although his motif of pique and sardonic turns at every killing could do with more pistol-shot precision. Stephanie Dabney brings gentle strength to the sweetheart who fills his dreams; Hughes Magen is excellent in some aspects of Alas, the role embodying all his victims.

A pity that Jared French's original designs could not be used; Robert Fletcher's simplified adaptation of them looks less well. The programme included John Taras's adaptation of *The Firebird*, with Judy Tyrus admirable in the title role, and a set of seemingly arbitrary movement exercises by John McFall, to Martin's *Toccata e Due Canzoni*, which did little for its dancers or this observer.

John Percival

Youthful promise

Australian Ballet
Covent Garden

The Australian Ballet were unnecessarily timorous, I think, in scheduling during the London season only one performance of a work by their latest choreographer, Timothy Gordon. His *Sonata for Seven* shows a bold use of movement and assured stagecraft, and suggests that he has a real gift worth persevering with.

Gordon, a New Zealander, began his dancing career with the Australian Ballet, but his choreographic style shows more the influence of the time he has spent with Netherlands Dance Theatre and the Frankfurt Ballet.

The music is Prokofiev's Piano Sonata No. 7, ably played by Nigel Gaylor. Gordon began by staging Gaylor. The one who gets by thanks to natural cunning. This section is full of clashes, throws, and falls, all toughly and astutely handled.

The second movement shows a woman (Kathleen Reid) whose loneliness is alleviated for a time by a handsome stranger (Steven Heathcote) who may be real or imagined. Finally, there is a quick fiery relationship between Fiona Tomkin and David McAllister.

Each of the music's three movements is reasonably faithfully reflected in the choreography.

What the ballet does not do is to draw them together into a coherent whole, although Hugh Coleman's costume designs and William Akers's harsh lighting go a long way to disguise that.

J.P.

Serge Lifar's *Suite en Blanc* is a straightforward display piece, a series of bravura dances set to an attractive score by Edouard Lalo. It demands considerable virtuosity and a strong sense of style. The former is amply supplied, but for these mainly very young dancers, the sophistication and wit needed to add the final glitter proved elusive. None the less, there were some admirable performances, notably from Anna de Cardi in the *Serenade* and Fiona Tonkin in the *Flute* solo.

I could imagine myself loathing Maurice Béjart's *Gaieté Parisienne* but, danced by the Australian men, with their straightforward masculine style, the Parisian "co-pains" are immediately transformed to "best mates". The ballet can best be described as a series of picture postcards of Paris, the Belle Époque and Béjart's own early days as a dance student, working with the legendary Madame Rousanne, wonderfully played here by Mary Duchesne with jet black wig and impenetrable Russian accent. Mark Annear as Béjart, the Béjart-figure, wanders happily through a gallery of Second Empire characters and Paris stereotypes.

He finally wins the praise of his teacher and their alter-egos dance a rapturous *pas de deux*.

Judith Cruickshank

Anouilh's sturdy fairy-tale

THEATRE

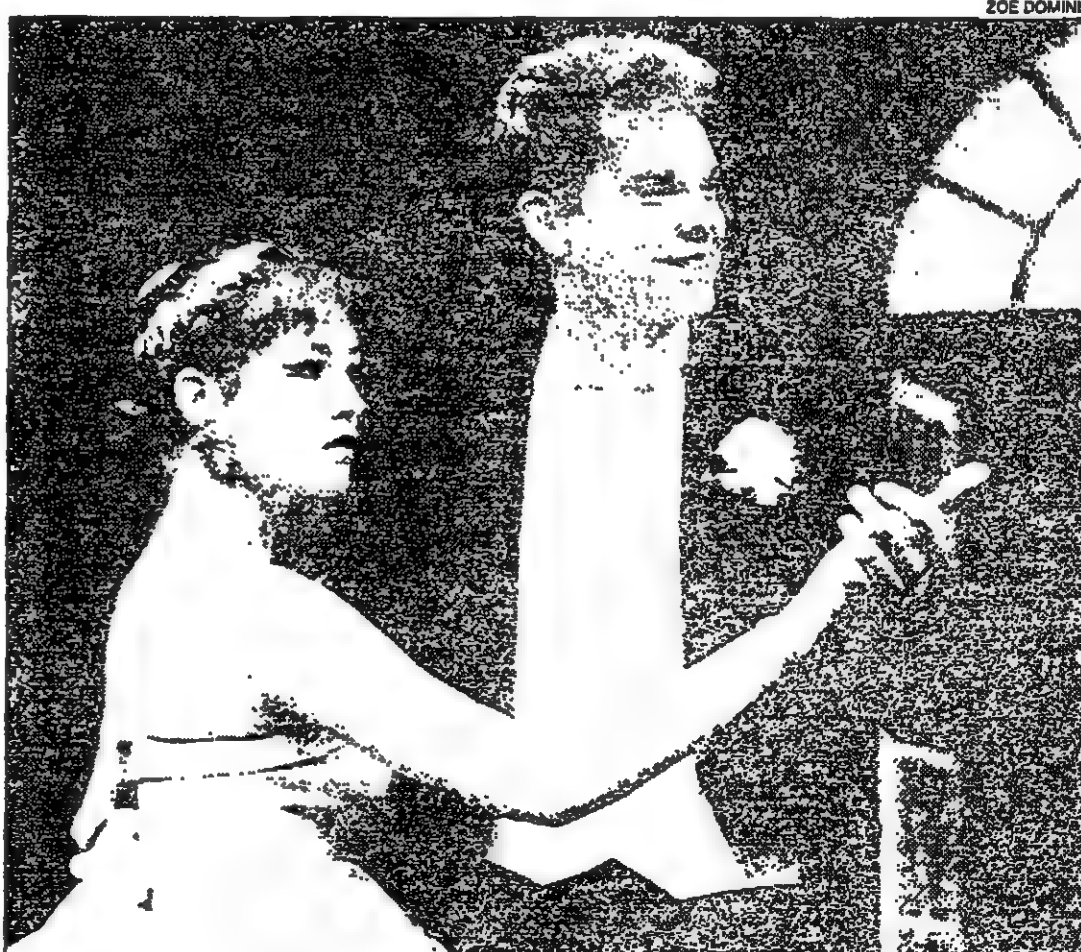
Ring Round The Moon
Chichester

In the 1960s Anouilh's reputation began to dip, in France as over here, and if English audiences know his work of the period then it is partly because John Clements stubbornly continued to produce it at this theatre. His enterprise could only have worked in the context of a festival theatre, possibly only at this theatre, where audiences could be expected to carry fond memories of the two plays that had given the author his reputation as the creator of piquant fairy-tales: *Time Remastered* and *Ring Round the Moon*.

If Anouilh's *Ring* was produced even half as often as *The Importance of Being Earnest* its sparkling lines would have become as familiar to us as the handbag, the Brighton line and the rest of them. There is even a witty aunt, though she is kinder than Lady Bracknell and plays the good fairy in sorting out the mismatched young lovers.

This year's Chichester production, directed very creditably by Elijah Moshinsky, uses the Christopher Fry translation that Peter Brook, good heavens, produced with Scofield as the identical twins. Frederic the tender one and Hugo the cynic. Fry closely models his wit on the original, and where there are departures the reasons are often obvious. Hugo is Horace in the French version but obviously nobody could be a cynic, still less gloriously upper class, while answering to Horace.

The setting is delicately airy: a winter garden attached to a great house, and just a touch ostentatious with its golden palm trees and shiny black floor (designer, Saul Radomsky). The language too sometimes takes off into flights of fancy but the plot has the sturdiness of every good fairy-tale. The cynical twin invites Isabelle, a



Dancing in a ring: Holly Aird as Isabelle, Michael Siberry as Hugo/Frederic make a dashing partnership

poor ballet dancer, to the ball with instructions to lure the tender (twin away from the millionaire's daughter whom, unknown to himself, the cynical one loves).

The other characters are all engaged in schemes of their own that become caught up in the main tale. In one of Moshinsky's choicer pieces of business three of the men go whirling about the stage in a wild movement on the edge of lifting into a dance. Their different schemes are in danger of colliding, and so are they. Christopher Godwin is specially comic here as Isabelle's fussy patron Romainville transformed into a sort of frantic black starfish.

To the critical playing of Hugo and Frederic, Michael Siberry brings dashing good looks that become sinister or apologetic at the drop of an eyebrow, and a voice drooping in mockery, stammering with embarrassment. Frederic is not a role that offers much to an actor, but that is the play's fault.

Anouilh keeps his obsession with poverty under control. It blazes powerfully in the skirmish between Isabelle (an elfin Holly Aird) and Diana, the elegant heiress (Linda Thorson, first rate). The play says something about role playing but nothing profound: it is, as Fry cleverly sub-titled it, a charade with music, where the

figures invent a part to play and all dissolves in laughter.

Observing the charade from a wheelchair is Google Withers's spirited and golden hearted Gorgon. Among other pleasures are June Whitfield's gushing parvenue, the crab-like walk of Michael Denison's crumbling butler and, in more sombre vein, Jose Ferrer as a dyspeptic millionaire, condemned to a diet of plain noodles but at the end, to general satisfaction, consenting to add to them a little salt. Anouilh may not have been tops as a philosopher of life but he knew how to round off a play.

Jeremy Kingston

Even if he did, one would have one's suspicions: some of the detail comes into the "stranger than fiction" category and the Janic character (Ben Daniels), a.k.a. Mr. Raison himself, is more fully realized than the girl, Claire (Geraldine Fitzgerald). Perhaps that in itself is a kind of achievement; it is not easy to write honestly or convincingly about oneself.

Trouble is, it's a bit like peeking into someone's very well written but very private diary. Ben Daniels and Geraldine Fitzgerald make matters worse by acting so well, striking up a convincing relationship on stage which is all too real

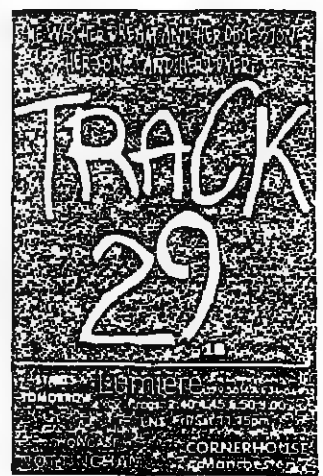
in its faltering first steps, in joys and miseries.

The question which hangs over all is whether the accurate reproduction of what actually happened, obviously the raw material of drama, can be drama by itself without being marinated in other experiences, processed through the dramatist's skill and technique and generally universalized. I don't think it can, any more than a crushed grape can be called wine.

This is not a matter of personal prejudice; the proof is right there in *The Rain Gathering*, in the very imbalance between the two characterizations. If it was drama, it wouldn't matter because there

would be more going on than the anatomizing of the relationship. As it is, the one-sidedness of the play — clever, kind, shy, loving Jamie as against the quixotic and self-destructive Claire — makes it look dangerously like personal therapy for Raison.

That would be over-stating, however. There's enough here to make one want to see more of Raison's writing as it matures and confirms his already growing reputation as an extremely talented and subtle director.

Robert
Dawson Scott

Now in Gre
odourless
use to suppl

WITH the pressure more and more of the need for people to enjoy a long life expectancy to enjoy a long life. As we get older, and yet seem to demand put on maintenance is not a top.

We are being urged to take care over choice to a well balanced diet.

Modern research findings new evidence which certain natural garlic are in the can be taken causing adverse reaction.

KWAI is the ideal way of the benefits of the benefits of the without the obvious of taste and smell.

Most garlic products are oil, derived from the extraction of the 'boils' of the constituents, the important substan

Nightly scramble to resurface world's busiest runway



By David Nicholson-Lord

Under the glare of arc lights and with the terminal buildings glimmering in the distance, a construction team moves slowly towards its target of covering every inch of Gatwick airport's 10,164 feet of runway with a new coat of tarmac.

Each night this summer at 10.30pm a painstaking ritual takes place at the world's second busiest airport. A convoy

of vehicles waits for air traffic controllers to create a five-minute "hole" in the airways.

Then, at a signal from the operations staff, the lights of the main runway are switched off and those of the emergency runway, which will be used by aircraft until dawn, flicker on. Only then can the conveyor move forward for action.

Work started on resurfacing the main

runway in March and will continue each night, between 10.30pm and 6am, until October. It is costing £5.8 million and is the first large renovation in 15 years.

For critics who ask why it is being carried out over the busy holiday period, the airport authorities have a ready answer: the M25, where the bits that are crumbling are those that were laid in the winter. Surfacing done in the summer

lasts probably three times as long as that carried out in the cold.

The job involves not only a new surface but also improved lighting and a reduction in the angle of turn-off, so that aircraft can taxi from the main runway more quickly, leaving it free for the next flight. The runway is already the world's busiest, and the opening this year of the North Terminal means that Gatwick's

capacity is set to increase from 28 to 25 million passengers a year.

The airport denies, however, that its runway was crumbling. The main worry was a loss of friction, and hence braking ability, caused by thousands of jets leaving a thin portion of their tyre rubber in the pores of the tarmac each time they landed.

To increase friction the new surface

will be grooved. It will also be slightly raised in the centre to improve drainage.

State ARC Construction started work, the airport says, schedules have been disrupted fewer than a dozen times, typically for only 15 minutes when part of the temporary ramp left each night has worked loose. The smallest piece of debris can cause havoc with jet engines. (Photograph: Graham Wood)

Prison talks on 'overcrowding'

Holloway dispute may end today

By Peter Evans and Andrew Morgan

Officers at Holloway women's prison in North London last night said they had agreed in principle to a new return-to-work formula put to them by a Prison Department "go-between" after protracted talks.

Miss Angela Burgess, the branch chairman of the Prison Officers' Association, said if the management agreed to the proposals, the dispute, which began to escalate last Friday night, could end today.

The prison management was last night considering the proposals and Mr Derek Briscoe, the department official, was invited to return to the prison this morning.

The branch committee first put its proposals to Mr Briscoe yesterday morning before he met management. He later returned with his own proposals and Miss Burgess said she was "impressed" at the speed of the new formula.

She added: "It could all come to end on Friday if management accept the proposals. The staff are anxious to return to work but this will not happen until the negotiations have reached a satisfactory conclusion."

FOA members at Holloway, Britain's biggest women's

prison, are at the centre of an increasingly serious dispute. They have effectively gone on strike by withdrawing to a "safe area" outside the prison gates. As industrial action by officers at other London prisons in support of them struck home, police, who could have been on street patrols, had to

The inquiry into the June prison riot at Haverigg in Cumbria is expected to confirm widespread use of drugs among inmates. Mr Jack Cunningham, Labour MP for Copeland, said yesterday: "For all I know it may still be going on," he added. The riot caused damage estimated at £1 million. Trouble flared again on Monday when about 50 prisoners caused damage estimated at £2,000.

handle a rising tide of prisoners.

An increase of nearly 100 inmates in police and court cells in England and Wales was reported by the Home Office in the week officers began barring prisoners in order to cut numbers held in key London jails.

The officers began their action on Wednesday. That

night numbers in police cells reached 810, compared with 713 the previous Friday. The total of women held rose in that time from 45 to 68.

Metropolitan Police figures on prisons in and around London show that numbers held in police and court cells are rising by 30 or 40 a day.

On Wednesday night there were 665 - 240 in the Metropolitan Police area and 425 elsewhere. Last night the Metropolitan Police expected the total to reach 700.

A spokesman said: "That means we need to find more spaces and more staff and transport to ferry prisoners round the country. This is a major operation and drains on the force's resources."

Prison officers in the London area are reducing the population to what jails are officially supposed to hold - the certified normal accommodation (CNA).

During a flare-up with the POA last March the number of inmates in police cells reached a critical 1,500 and Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, was forced to open two former Army camps to take the overflow.

Brixton Prison is now play-

ing a crucial role in the demand on police and court cell space. The jail is accepting sentenced prisoners from the Crown Court and people remanded in custody for a medical, but not normal remands, because sentenced prisoners cannot be transferred to Wandsworth as a result of the industrial action.

Over the last six months, Brixton has on average taken 80 new unconvicted remand and trial prisoners each day.

The 207 members of the POA at Norwich prison will meet today to discuss industrial action over manning levels, which officers voted for in a ballot announced on Wednesday. It is likely they will decide not to accept further court prisoners from Monday.

The chairman of the Board at Holloway, Mrs Sue Richley, said yesterday she was "very concerned" because there were no escorts and prisoners were not available to go to court.

If they should not get a prison sentence, or receive a sentence shorter than the period they had already been in prison, they would be on remand in Holloway longer than necessary.

A poem for 88th birthday

Continued from page 1

minutes gathering armfuls of flowers from children who had been allowed through the police barriers, and still had time to listen to Mr Colin Edwards, a local government officer from Macclesfield, Cheshire, who insisted on reading her a birthday poem of his own composition.

"How kind of you, thank you so very much," smiled the great-grandmother who is too wise to give offence to anyone.

For her birthday appearance the Queen Mother chose a pastel blue-and-white coat and dress with a pastel-blue hat, reinforcing her image of a soft-focus lampshade which has been her hallmark for decades, and which accords perfectly with the public perception of a much-loved great-grandmother.

Queen Elizabeth was married to the Duke of York, who became King George VI, for 29 years; she has now been a widow for 36 years, but shows little sign of abandoning her public life.

Three weeks ago she charmed the East End by making an unscheduled stop at a pub during a tour of new housing developments.

Row on security intensifies

Continued from page 1

views later, Mr Green said that, at one stage, the Prime Minister's husband, Mr Denis Thatcher, had nearly been escorted away from the fringes as he tried to force his way through to Mrs Thatcher.

The Melbourne police chief said that Mr Thatcher had been wearing no identification, and that there was hardly a policeman in Victoria who knew what he looked like.

In Sydney yesterday, Mrs Thatcher visited a submarine warfare training station and took a trip across the harbour past the famous opera house.

An egg was thrown unsuccessfully, and three dem-

onstrators were arrested as a small crowd, with placards bearing such messages as "the only good Tory is a suppository", shouted pro-IRA and gay rights slogans when she visited the Powerhouse Museum. But the protesters were well contained behind barricades and there was never any threat to her safety.

Mrs Thatcher clashed repeatedly last night with an Australian television interviewer when questioned about her attitude to economic sanctions against South Africa.

She was also asked, amid the ill-tempered exchanges, if Britain's inflation rate and current account trade deficit

were not a poor advertisement for her proclaimed economic miracle.

The Prime Minister replied: "The rate in Britain is 4.6 per cent - a great deal lower than in Australia, though not as low as I would wish. I would be very surprised indeed if it got up to about 7 per cent."

Sources close to the Treasury have been warning of the possibility of British inflation rising to close to 6 per cent. This is Mrs Thatcher's most specific comment yet on the question, though it was clearly made in the context of an Australian inflation rate of 7 per cent.

Red Square pilot back in 'custody'

Continued from page 1

from Moscow to Frankfurt, have done a good job in keeping him away from other reporters.

Although Herr Rust gave brief interviews to Tass in Moscow and Western correspondents on his flight home, he would say nothing to a crowd of press, radio and television reporters waiting at Frankfurt airport. A mini-bus whisked him away to a secret rendezvous with his parents.

But a Hamburg-based television crew tracked down the

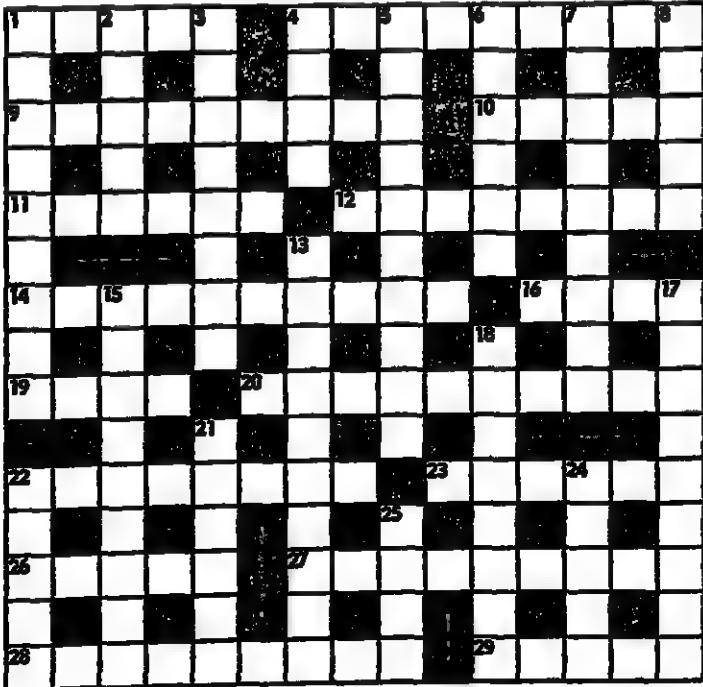
Rust family. After some hard bargaining they were allowed a three-minute interview with Herr Rust, who gave carefully stilted answers to dull questions that appeared to have been agreed with Stern in advance.

Herr Michael Jürgs, one of three chief editors of Stern, denied that they were indulging in superlative cheque-book journalism. "Why should the big names always be the ones to cash in?" he said. "The little people should also have a chance to come

into some real money." He would not say how "real" was the Rust family's payment.

Stern has done a non-cash deal with the American NBC television network, which paid an unnamed British amateur cameraman a reported \$10,000 for his now famous footage of Herr Rust landing in Red Square. In return for Stern allowing an NBC crew into the Rust family home at Wedel, near Hamburg, the network is letting the magazine use stills from the film.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,740



- ACROSS**
- Copy published in Paris (5).
 - Named and registered captive bird (9).
 - Reassurance opening for business (9).
 - Replace someone's partner to join game of cards (3,2).
 - Defeat for party (6).
 - A peak in school comeback - Latin mark especially (4,4).
 - He requires loud member of cast as villain (10).
 - New Jersey? (4).
 - A hard thing to catch (4).
 - Pity? Love is altogether different (5,3).
 - New York's so-called eminent pupil (3,3).
 - Sounds like it's engraved without embellishment (6).
 - Kid might make one for digital input (5).
 - How is that cry intended to help condemned man? (9).
 - Teacher's assistant organized minor sets (9).
 - Run respectable in theatrical terms (5).

- DOWN**
- Note pieces required for American militia (9).
 - Wrote off loom (5).
 - Foretells wishes of Queen of Hearts (5,3).
 - Divine female in London I keep concealed (4).
 - Pennit Oslo or Rome to slip badly as city (10).
 - Part of bottle, say, with salt or sweet drink (6).
 - Right servant to start work (5,4).
 - Studies English with little intelligence (5).
 - Train officer, one in the same class (10).
 - Not opposing increase of honest reporting (5,4).
 - Boxer combining cunning and power (9).
 - Skied round object to get this drink? (8).
 - Optimistic high point followed by defeat (6).
 - Swearing through mouthpiece (2,3).
 - A fair thing you lose on (5).
 - Make short work of this by dismissing us (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

QUOTE JOKES

By Philip Howard

SPARE WITH WHICH

a. James Baldwin

b. Chaucer

c. Wordsworth

d. Flannery O'Connor

e. Ted Hughes

f. Shakespeare

g. Alfred Austin

h. The Wesleys hymnal

i. Tolkien

j. THEN THE MAIDEN AUNT

a. Tennyson

b. Lewis Carroll

c. Byron

d. Answers on page 20, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,739

SOMERSET HOUSE
DISCREETLY
JAMES BOWEN
MURDER
GOLDEN
ASIDE
SAMARITANISM
TUNING
ORGANISATION
NORWICH
UNLAWFUL
SERIES
HERALD ASCENDER

WEATHER

A ridge of high pressure will bring improved conditions to central, southern and eastern areas. Most places will start dull and cloudy with some drizzle and steady rain in the north and west. Most of England and south-east Scotland will become dry with sunny spells. Wales and north-west England will stay cloudy with drizzle on coasts and hills. Northern Ireland and western Scotland will be cloudy with occasional rain. Outlook: mostly dry and warm with some sunny spells.

ABROAD

MONDAY: behind: drizzle; 10-12; 13-15; 16-18; 19-21; 22-24; 25-27; 28-30; 31-33; 34-36; 37-39; 40-42; 43-45; 46-48; 49-51; 52-54; 55-57; 58-60; 61-63; 64-66; 67-69; 70-72; 73-75; 76-78; 79-81; 82-84; 85-87; 88-90; 91-93; 94-96; 97-99; 100-102; 103-105; 106-108; 109-111; 112-114; 115-117; 118-120; 121-123; 124-126; 127-129; 130-132; 133-135; 136-138; 139-141; 142-144; 145-147; 148-150; 151-153; 154-156; 157-159; 160-162; 163-165; 166-168; 169-171; 172-174; 175-177; 178-180; 181-183; 184-186; 187-189; 190-192; 193-195; 196-198; 199-201; 202-204; 205-207; 208-210; 211-213; 214-216; 217-219; 220-222; 223-225; 226-228; 229-231; 232-234; 235-237; 238-240; 241-243; 244-246; 247-249; 250-252; 253-255; 256-258; 259-261; 262-264; 265-267; 268-270; 271-273; 274-276; 277-279; 280-282; 283-285; 286-288; 289-291; 292-294; 295-297; 298-300; 301-303; 304-306; 307-309; 310-312; 313-315; 316-318; 319-321; 322-324; 325-327; 328-330; 331-333; 334-336; 337-339; 340-342; 343-345; 346-348; 349-351; 352-354; 355-357; 358-360; 361-363; 364-366; 367-369; 370-372; 373-375; 376-378; 379-381; 382-384; 385-387; 388-390; 391-393; 394-396; 397-399; 400-402; 403-405; 406-408; 409-411; 412-414; 415-417; 418-420; 421-423; 424-426; 427-429; 430-432; 433-435; 436-438; 439-441; 442-444; 445-447; 448-450; 451-453; 454-456; 457-459; 460-462; 463-465; 466-468; 469-471; 472-474; 475-477; 478-480; 481-483; 484-486; 487-489; 490-492; 493-495; 496-498; 499-501; 502-504; 505-507; 508-510; 511-513; 514-516; 517-519; 520-522; 523-525; 526-528; 529-531; 532-534; 535-537; 538-540; 541-543; 544-546; 547-549; 550-552; 553-555; 556-558; 559-561; 562-564; 565-567; 568-570; 571-573; 574-576; 577-579; 580-582; 583-585; 586-588; 589-591; 592-594; 595-597; 598-600; 601-603; 604-606; 607-609; 610-612; 613-615; 616-618; 619-621; 622-624; 625-627; 628-630; 631-633; 634-636; 637-639; 640-642; 643-645; 646-648; 649-651; 652-654; 655-657; 658-660; 661-663; 664-666; 667-669; 670-672; 673-675; 676-678; 679-681; 682-684; 685-687; 688-690; 691-693; 694-696; 697-699; 700-702; 703-705; 706-708; 709-711; 712-714; 715-717; 718-720; 721-723; 724-726; 727-729; 730-732; 733-735; 736-738; 739-741; 742-744; 745-747; 748-750; 751-753; 754-756; 757-759; 760-762; 763-765; 766-768; 769-771; 772-774; 775-777; 778-780; 781-783; 784-786; 787-789; 790-792; 793-795; 796-798; 799-801; 802-804; 805-807; 808-810; 811-813; 814-816; 817-819; 820-822; 823-825; 826-828; 829-831; 832-834; 835-837; 838-840; 841-843; 844-846; 847-849; 850-852; 853-855; 856-858; 859-861; 862-864; 865-867; 868-870; 871-873; 874-876; 877-879; 880-882; 883-885; 886-888; 889-891; 892-894; 895-897; 898-900; 901-903; 904-906; 907-909; 910-912; 913-915; 916-918; 919-921; 922-924; 925-927; 928-930; 931-933; 934-936; 937-939; 940-942; 943-945; 946-948; 949-951; 952-954; 955-957; 958-960; 961-963; 964-966; 967-969; 970-972; 973-975; 976-978; 979-981; 982-984; 985-987; 988-990; 991-993; 994-996; 997-999; 1000-1002; 1003-1005; 1006-1008; 1009-1011; 1012-1014; 1015-1017; 1018-1020; 1021-1023; 1024-1026; 1027-1029; 1030-1032; 1033-1035; 1036-1038; 1039-1041; 1042-1044; 1045-1047; 1048-1050; 1051-1053; 1054-1056; 1057-1059; 1060-1062; 1063-1065; 1066-1068; 1069-1071; 1072-1074; 1075-1077; 1078-1080; 1081-1083; 1084-1086; 1087-1089; 1090-1092; 1093-1095; 1096-1098; 1099-1101; 1102-1104; 1105-1107; 1108-1110; 1111-1113; 1114-1116; 1117-1119; 1120-1122; 1123-1125; 1126-1128; 1129-1131; 1132-1134; 1135-1137; 1138-1140; 1141-1143; 1144-1146; 1147-1149; 1150-1152; 1153-1155; 1156-1158; 1159-1161; 1162-1164; 1165-1167; 1168-1170; 1171-1173; 1174-1176; 1177-1179; 1180-1182; 1183-1185; 1186-1188; 1189-1191; 1192-1194; 1195-1197; 1198-1200; 1201-1203; 1204-1206; 1207-1209; 1210-1212; 1213-1215; 1216-1218; 1219-1221; 1222-1224; 1225-1227; 1228-1230; 1231-1233; 1234-1236; 1237-1239; 1240-1242; 1243-1245; 1246-1248; 1249-1251; 1252-1254; 1255-1257; 1258-1260; 1261-1263; 1264-1266; 1267-1269; 1270-1272; 1273-1275; 1276-1278; 1279-1281; 1282-1284; 1285-1287; 1288-1290; 1291-1293; 1294-1296; 1297-1299; 1300-1302; 1303-1305; 1306-1308; 1309-1311; 1312-1314; 1315-1317; 1318-1320; 1321-1323; 1324-1326; 1327-1329; 1330-1332; 1333-1335; 1336-1338; 1339-1341; 1342-1344; 1345-1347; 1348-1350; 1351-1353; 1354-1356; 1357-1359; 1360-1362; 1363-1365; 1366-1368; 1369-1371; 1372-1374; 1375-1377; 1378-1380; 1381-1383; 1384-1386; 1387-1389; 1390-1392; 1393-1395; 1396-1398; 1399-1401; 1402-1404; 1405-1407; 1408-1410; 1411-1413; 1414-1416; 1417-1419; 1420-1422; 1423-1425; 1426-1428; 1429-1431; 1432-1434; 1435-1437; 1438-1440; 1441-1443; 1444-1446; 1447-1449; 1450-1452; 1453-1455; 1456-1458; 1459-1461; 1462-1464; 1465-1467; 1468-1470; 1471-1473; 1474-1476; 1477-1479; 1480-1482; 1483-1485; 1486-1488; 1489-1491; 1492-1494; 1495-1497; 1498-1500; 1501-1503; 1504-1506; 1507-1509; 1510-1512; 1513-1515; 1516-1518; 1519-1521; 1522-1524; 1525-1527; 1528-1530; 1531-1533; 1534-1536; 1537-1539; 1540-1542; 1543-1545; 1546-1548; 1549-1551; 1552-1554; 1555-1557; 1558-1560; 1561-1563; 1564-1566; 1567-1569; 1570-1572; 1573-1575; 1576-1578; 1579-1581; 1582-1584; 1585-1587; 1588-1590; 1591-1593; 1594-1596; 1597-1599; 1600-1602; 1603-1605; 1606-1608; 1609-1611; 1612-1614; 1615-1617; 1618-1620; 1621-1623; 1624-1626; 1627-1629; 1630-1632; 1633-1635; 1636-1638; 1639-1641; 1642-1644; 1645-1647; 1648-1650; 1651-1653; 1654-1656; 1657-1659; 1660-1662; 1663-1665; 1666-1668; 1669-1671; 1672-1674; 1675-1677; 1678-1680; 1681-1683; 1684-1686; 1687-1689; 1690-1692; 1693-1695; 1696-1698; 1699-1701; 1702-1704; 1705-1707; 1708-1710; 1711-1713; 1714-1716; 1717-1719; 1720-1722; 1723-1725; 1726-1728; 1729-1731; 1732-1734;

MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1508.5 (+6.5)	US dollar 1.7110 (+0.0005)
FT-SE 100 1869.7 (+4.6)	W German mark 3.2133 (+0.0061)
USM (Datastream) 169.75 (+0.67)	Trade-weighted 76.5 (+0.1)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Bids open for BR subsidiary

Formal invitations to bid went out yesterday to more than a dozen companies and groups which have expressed an interest in acquiring British Rail Engineering, the British Rail locomotive and carriage manufacturing subsidiary based at Derby.

The management team is also putting together a bid, with the backing of Britain's Trafalgar House, Sweden's ASEA and Switzerland's Brown Boveri.

Acquisition proposals must be submitted at the beginning of October and the BR board hopes to complete the sale before the year end.

Clowes case

The Crown Prosecution Service may bring further charges against Mr Peter Clowes, the former head of Barlow Clowes, a CFS spokeswoman indicated yesterday.

Oil down

Oil traders yesterday marked prices down, following the inconclusive meeting of the Opec monitoring committee in Switzerland. North Sea Brent crude traded at \$14.45 a barrel, compared with \$15.10 the day before.

STOCK MARKETS

New York	2127.13 (-6.84)
Dow Jones	28292.66 (-57.79)
Hong Kong	2877.37 (-15.28)
Amsterdam	282.1 (+0.5)
Sydney	1631.3 (+9.2)
Frankfurt	1488.7 (-3.8)
Brussels	484.5 (+13.9)
Paris CAC	358.5 (-0.2)
Zurich SMI	478.1 (+4.1)
London	
FT-30 Share	1508.5 (+6.5)
FT-100	1869.7 (+4.6)
FT Gold Mines	198.1 (+1.3)
FT Fixed Interest	97.58 (-0.01)
FT Govt Secs	88.37 (-0.38)
Recent Issues	Page 24
Closing prices	Page 27

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Blue Circle	489 1/2p (+12p)
Courts (Furn) A	255p (+25p)
Generali	242 1/2p (+10 1/2p)
Vox	355p (+10p)
A Goshaw	355p (+10p)
J Rothschild	147 1/2p (+10 1/2p)
Poly Plast	325p (+13p)
Tozer Kameley	105p (+7 1/2p)
Inchcape	319 1/2p (+8p)
Hestor	321p (+11p)
Throg Dull	335p (+10p)
Continental Ind	380p (+10p)
Pleasurama	250p (+10p)
Rossmore	745p (+11p)
British Aerospace	481 1/2p (+9p)
FALLS:	
TVS	314 1/2p (-15p)
West Point	37 1/2p (-7 1/2p)
PWS	153 1/2p (-5 1/2p)
Hunter	210p (-10p)
Personal Computer	250p (-25p)
Closing prices	Page 27
Bargains	25182

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base	10 1/2%
3-month interbank	10 1/2%
3-month sterling bills	10 1/2%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	9 1/4%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills	8.87-8.88%
30-year bonds	10 1/2%-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
\$1.7110	\$1.7100
DM3.2133	DM1.8805
SwFr2.6820	SwFr1.5880
FF10.8520	FF6.3500
Yen227.48	Yen133.02
Index76.5	Index58.7
ECU20.649167	SDR20.760539

GOLD

London Fixing	AM \$433.40 pm \$433.10
255.50	\$433.00-\$433.50 (255.00-255.50)
New York	Comex \$432.80-\$433.50

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sept) pm \$14.45 (\$14.92)	
Denotes latest trading price	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stockwatch yesterday included: British Airways (01846) added 6p on better-than-expected first quarter results. Mecca (01472) shares dropped 12p after their hostile £621m bid for Pleasurama (02209), whose shares rose 34p. PWS Holdings (02353) dropped 52p on news that their chief executive resigned following losses in the US.

● Recent additions include: Dukeminster (03411); Seriff Cowells (02896); TVS Entertainment (03413)

● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Mecca offers £621m for Pleasurama

By Cliff Feltham

Mecca Leisure, one of the oldest names in the entertainment industry, stunned the stock market yesterday by springing a £621 million takeover bid for Pleasurama, the hotels and casino group.

Mecca insisted the bid would only go ahead if Pleasurama called off its offer for the Hard Rock Café chain. Pleasurama, which is three times the size of Mecca, dismissed the offer as "opportunistic and unwelcome."

Leisure analysts were doubtful of Mecca's bid succeeding at its present level, but there was speculation that other predators could move in with rival bids for Pleasurama, which has been the subject of takeover talk for some time. Favourites are the Rank Organisation and Bass, the brewer.

Mecca's all-paper offer values the Pleasurama ordinary shares at 261p and the convertible preference shares at 243p. Pleasurama, which had shot up in late trading on Wednesday, jumped 34p to 260p. Mecca fell 12p to 204p.

Mr Michael Guthrie, the Mecca chairman, revealed that he opened talks with Pleasurama early last year to try and agree a merger.

"They acknowledged there were strong commercial benefits in a get-together but decided they wanted to remain on their own. However, we are convinced there is a need for a strong pure entertainment-based group. The City has said it wants to be able to invest in a large leisure group which we believe we can create," said Mr Guthrie.

"We haven't suddenly thought up this bid. We have been looking at it for 18 months," he added.

The bid values Pleasurama at nearly 19 times last year's earnings and Mecca claims it offers ordinary shareholders a capital boost of 25.5 per cent. Mecca predicts its pre-tax profits for the present year will be not less than £22.25 million against £14 million last time.

Comment 25

Earnings per share are forecast at least 24 per cent higher at not less than 14.4p.

A big stumbling block is likely to be a Pleasurama extraordinary meeting next week to vote on the Hard Rock acquisition and a £120 million rights issue to pay for the deal. The resolution needs the support of 75 per cent of the shareholders.

Mr Guthrie said he was not convinced the deal was a good one. He said Pleasurama's plans to promote the use of the name could ruin its appeal, while running single outlets around the world would be difficult to manage.

"There are a number of aspects to this deal which we think need a much closer investigation," he said.

Mecca claimed there was a strong shareholder overlap between the two companies, with its own institutional investors owning as much as 30 per cent of Pleasurama.

Mr Jeremy Long, the Mecca finance director, said: "We believe the common shareholder base will provide good support for our offer particularly in view of the desire among institutions to find a large vehicle for investment in the leisure sector."

But, Mr Barry Hardy, Pleasurama's planning and development director, said: "We are not convinced that creating a large leisure group makes it a good one. We could turn round and bid for them but it would not make us a better company. There has got to be a chance of someone else coming in and bidding for us. If we wanted to look around for a white knight we would have no difficulty in finding one."

Mr Nigel Reed, a leisure analyst at Kitcat & Aiken, the broker, said: "I am not totally surprised by the bid. There have been rumours that Mecca could be tying up with Rank to launch a bid. The bid makes a lot of sense."

Mecca is offering seven new ordinary shares and 10 new convertible preference for every 10 Pleasurama ordinary shares.

It is also offering 28 new ordinary and 40 new convertible preference for every 43 Pleasurama convertible preference shares.

Power industry 'met Government targets'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The electricity industry, which is set to be sold off in the biggest-ever privatization of state-owned assets, announced yesterday that last year it met Government financial targets set three years ago, that it created new sales records, and coped with the worst hurricane damage in its 40-year history, while cutting prices by 17 per cent in real terms.

However, power prices, which rose in April this year, will have to go up again - probably by about 5 per cent next year, before the industry is privatized, to meet the latest Government targets.

Sir Philip Jones, the chairman of the Electricity Council, the umbrella organization which represents the existing 12 area electricity boards and the Central Electricity Generating Board, said that the

months to underline the potential it has for both profits and efficiencies, which will ultimately lead to lower power prices.

The Bill for the privatization of the industry will be put before Parliament this autumn, with vesting day in January 1990.

The CEGB said yesterday that from January it will operate three shadow companies, in line with its structure following privatization, from January next year.

Sir Philip and Lord Marsh of Goring, the head of the CEGB, said that private power generators were coming forward, and that this could increase competition.

However, until the industry moves into the private sector its critics will continue to argue that it is being "fattened up" for privatization.

Sell-off hopes

decision, in April 1987, to keep prices down and not exceed the Government's financial targets.

The industry's ability to achieve much higher returns when freed from Government constraints will be used by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the Energy Secretary, in the coming

TI surprises with 60% gain

By Alexandra Jackson

TI Group, the specialist engineering company, beat market expectations with a 60 per cent increase in pre-tax profits from £25.1 million to £40.1 million in the half year to end-June. The shares jumped 13p to 369p.

The interim dividend rises from 3.5p to 4.75p.

Sales edged ahead 2 per cent from £465 million to £473.2 million allowing operating margins to widen from 6.4 per cent to 8.8 per cent.

Crane, the US specialist seals business, and Bundy, a small diameter tube operation, acquired in September and April respectively, made satisfactory contributions. Acquisitions added £6 million to pre-tax profits.

Despite fluctuating currencies during the half year the profits shortfall was only £1 million.

There was a pension fund holiday worth £1 million at the operating profits level, compared with £1.6 million in the first half of last year.

TI is reorganizing its research operation to improve the link between the technology and marketing sides. This involves the closure of the group's central laboratory in Cambridge. All TI's applied technology research will be done at the operating locations, compared with 70 per cent before.

Half of the extraordinary charge of £2.4 million relates to this closure. There will be cost savings by next year.

The only disappointing area in the half-year results was the aerospace division, where profits marked time.

Aerospace accounts for about 6 per cent of sales but a slightly higher percentage of profits.

American investment 'could lose £4m'

By Colin Campbell

Mr Raanan Ben-Zur, aged 32, the chief executive of PWS Holdings, the Lloyd's broker, yesterday summarily resigned from PWS after the group's unexpected admission that it stands to lose up to £4 million on its January takeover of Glenn, Nyhan & Associates, the US insurance group.

PWS, which is Britain's seventh largest quoted insurance broking group, obliquely said that the projected £4 million loss follows the revelation to its board yesterday of "a serious concealment" regarding certain aspects of GNA's operations, and that the board "is considering the company's legal remedies arising as a result of the acquisition."

PWS's net is likely to be cast in the US and Britain in pursuit of its legal claims, industry sources said. Its shares slumped from 205p to 154p reflecting not only the financial impact on PWS but also fears about the fate of Mr Ben-Zur's 42 per cent family holding.

Mr Ben-Zur's original family company, The Hudson Group, was effectively reversed into PWS International in May, 1986, and it was Mr Ben-Zur who was seen to be the dominant influence within the merged PWS group.

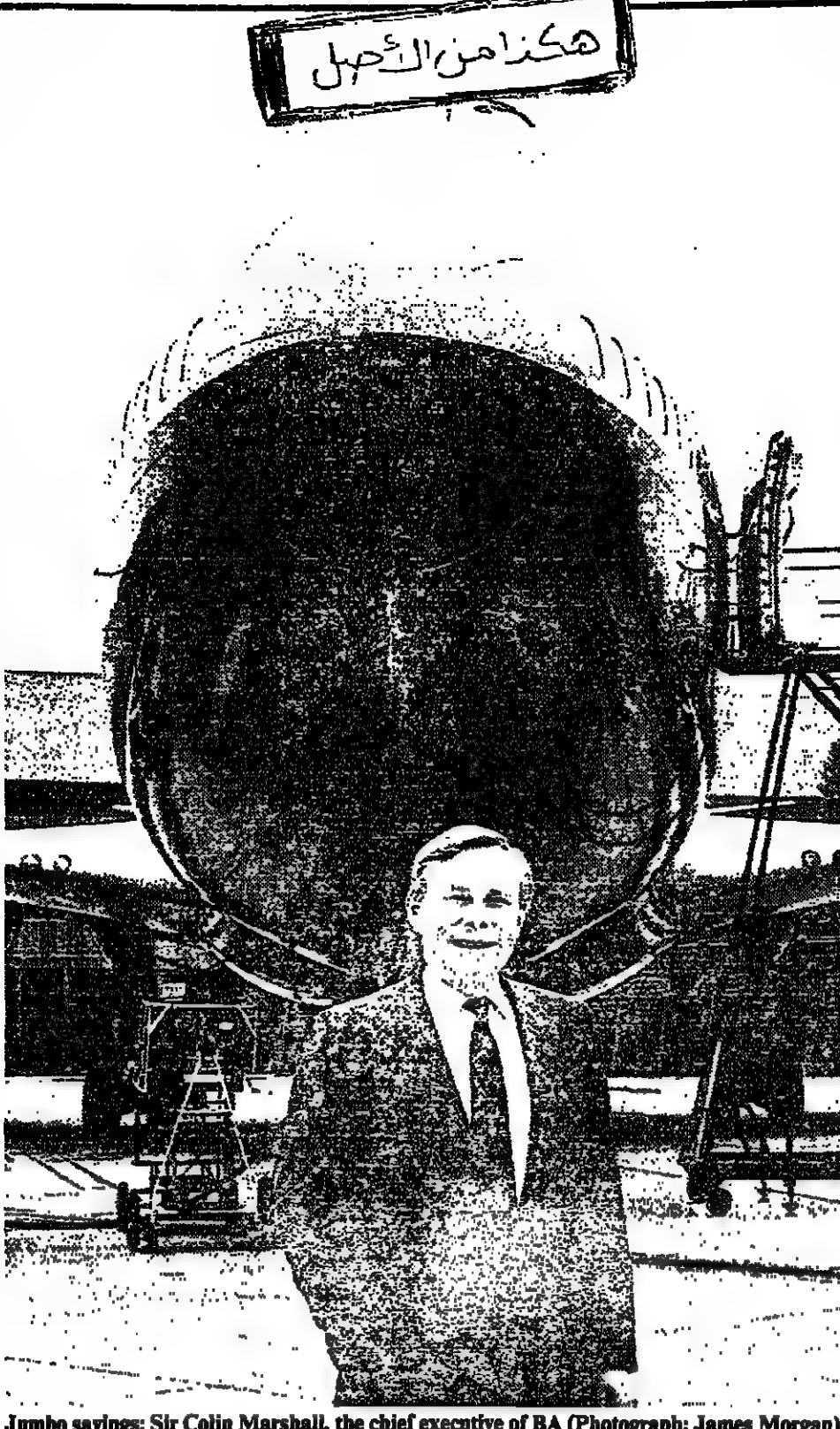
Yesterday's share price reaction also reflected investment concern that Mr Ben-Zur - autocratic though he might have been - was widely regarded as the architect of PWS, and that earlier performance hopes may not now be fulfilled. However, PWS was quick to replace Mr Ben-Zur with the appointment of Mr Brian Soules as acting chief executive. No other boardroom resignations are planned.

Despite the generally accepted principle of a board's collective responsibility, Mr Ben-Zur was yesterday said to have been the director most visibly identified with the GNA takeover, and that because the acquisition was said to have been one of his personal crusades, he had decided in view of developments to tender his resignation. The offer was unanimously accepted by the board.

PWS bought GNA in February for \$500,000 in cash and the issue of 1.39 million shares, valuing the acquisition at £3 million (\$5.1 million at the exchange rates then).

At the time, PWS said GNA would be a significant addition to the PWS Group, adding that the board "look forward to the contribution which they believe the executives of GNA will make."

PWS admitted yesterday that after it had bought GNA, which specializes in liability insurance programmes for US professional trade associations, it was obliged to inject more capital into GNA. The group's total current commitment to GNA is estimated at \$12 million.



Jumbo savings: Sir Colin Marshall, the chief executive of BA (Photograph: James Morgan)

BA is back on course with £81m first quarter profit

By Graham Searjeant

British Airways pleased the City with profits of £81 million pre-tax for the March to June quarter, the first three months of its financial year.

Profits were £9 million lower than the same period last year after higher interest charges. But they were above City forecasts, showing that BA had acted quickly to stem the heavy losses attributed to British Caledonian in the previous quarter.

Quarterly earnings fell from 8.1p to 7.4p per share. Poor bookings on former BCal services due to uncertainty over the airline's future last autumn; have left the passenger load factor 8 to 9 points behind that of the

former British Airways and cut the group total from 71.4 to 66.2 per cent of capacity.

Sir Colin Marshall, BA's chief executive, said it had been too late to get back business on Gatwick routes for this summer. But he added that the group's new strategy for Gatwick, which includes newer aircraft and concentration at the new North terminal, would put its full marketing effort behind the old BCal routes.

Lord King, the chairman, told shareholders that group performance had been close to target and that "we have taken firm control of costs" in the former BCal operations.

Sir Colin said that there were more savings to come from 800 job losses (including 400 from the Gatwick reorganization) making a total of 2200 from the merger.

Group turnover rose by 13 per cent to £1.02 billion and airline turnover was 17 per cent up at 1989 million. Passenger numbers increased by 16 per cent to 5.7 million. Borrowing increased to more than £1 billion, mainly due to the BCal acquisition, but the business generated £181 million cash in the quarter.

BA confirmed that it wants to buy a stake in Air New Zealand, for which the New Zealand government requires bids by tonight.

Tempus, page 24

Assets frozen in Clowes link

By Lawrence Lever

Liquidators for Barlow Clowes International, the offshore division of the crashed investment group, have frozen assets of up to £7 million held by a British Virgin Islands company called Ryeman Ltd.

This company is believed to be controlled by the uncle of Mr Guy von Cramer, the Leeds businessman.

Ernst & Whinney, the accountancy firm acting as liquidators, has obtained court orders in London and the Isle of Man freezing Ryeman's assets.

The court orders apply to any motor vehicles owned by Ryeman including a Bentley Turbo and a Porsche.

Ernst & Whinney is still seeking further information about Ryeman, which appears to be a company with enormous territorial reach.

To ensure that Ryeman was properly notified of the court orders against it, copies were sent to the British Virgin Islands, Liechtenstein, the Isle of Man and the Island of Sark.

Ernst & Whinney has also obtained a court order against the merchant bank Singer & Friedlander, with which the bank is complying.

This requires Singer to provide documents relating to accounts it holds of Ryeman. Mr von Cramer and Brodian, a company used by Mr von Cramer and Mr Peter Clowes, the head of Barlow Clowes, to take stakes in various public companies.

These manoeuvres form part of legal proceedings brought by Ernst & Whinney against Mr von Cramer, aged 27, who is Mr Clowes' erstwhile business partner. Companies associated with Mr von Cramer are alleged to have received £14 million belonging to Barlow Clowes investors.

Yesterday Mr von Cramer agreed to the continuance of a High Court order freezing his assets. The order also covers a number of companies associated with him.

The asset freezing order is part of the battle by Ernst & Whinney to recover £138 million owed to 11,000 investors with BCI.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC, for Mr von Cramer, said he wished to make clear that Mr von Cramer's consent to the orders did not involve "any restraint from his position that he rejects all allegations of wrongdoing made against him and will in due course answer such allegations as have been made."

Purchases pay off for Hickson

Hickson International, the specialist chemicals and building protection group, beat forecasts by up to £1 million with a 38 per cent pre-tax profit rise to £12.05 million in the six months to end-June.

There has been takeover speculation this summer, but Mr John Marvin, the managing director, said the group was keen to remain independent.

Much of the progress came from purchases. In chemicals, there was £300,000 from Kerley Enterprises, the US group bought in June. Sayerlack, the Italian company acquired in July, contributed £1.5 million. Profits of £2.3 million (£1.5 million) from merchant distribution came largely from three acquisitions.

The interim dividend rises from 1.625p to 2.25p.

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

YESTERDAY

TODAY

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Harrison responds to Millicom challenge

Racal stands its ground on flotation of Vodafone

By David Brewerton

Sir Ernest Harrison is normally a man who makes himself abundantly clear but feels he has been misunderstood over his attitude towards the proposed sale of 20 per cent of Racal Telecommunications Group (RTG), better known as Vodafone, by the parent, Racal Electronics.

"He never, he says, said 'Vodafone belongs to Racal management.' What he did say, or meant to say, was 'that the Racal management who have control developed Vodafone for the benefit of the shareholders of Racal'."

"As far as I am concerned shareholders own the company, and they will decide the whole thing. I think the record shows that over the years we have acted in the best interests of shareholders. A thousand pounds invested in Racal in 1961 would be worth £500,000, and that's not a bad record."

Sir Ernest is on the defensive because his board's plans for the sale of the Vodafone stake have been challenged by Millicom, its second largest shareholder. There are signs that Millicom's alternative plan to demerge all of Vodafone, giving 90 per cent of it to existing Racal shareholders and selling the balance to raise funds, is gathering some supporters among institutional investors.

This morning, Racal shareholders will receive Sir Ernest's forthright reply to Millicom's circular sent out last week, and there is no sign of a compromise.

Racal needs funds to invest in its "two other exciting businesses," data communications and security, and Sir Ernest reckons that the partial flotation is the only way to achieve it.

"Why did we go this route? Well I think the share price answers that. When we announced the intention to float Vodafone the share price went up 30 per cent. Had we announced a rights issue it would have gone down by 40p. So that as we are at the moment every shareholder has about 100p standing on the share price because we chose that route."

And will that 100p pay for shareholders to take up their allotment of RTG shares? The chances are it will. It is likely that RTG will be issued to shareholders on a one in seven basis, which, even after tax, will raise the amount needed.

The two sides have less than two weeks to win the battle of words over which scheme shareholders should vote for, and Sir Ernest has no doubts. "We shall win." He will not even countenance the suggestion that the institutions may decide to sit on the fence.



Drumming up support: Sir Ernest Harrison of Racal

Not all the ammunition has been fired. One of the planks of the Millicom case, ably presented by its president, Mr Shelby Bryan, is that tax considerations will prevent a full demerger of RTG in the future if it is not achieved now.

"It is totally incorrect," says Sir Ernest in his latest letter to shareholders. "For Millicom to state that under current tax legislation it would be impossible. Racal could go down to 75 per cent, it claims, without attracting a tax liability."

But what if, for one reason or another, Racal should want to allow its grip to weaken any further? Racal has an answer to that, but that will not be found in the circular. Sir Ernest has come up with the ingenious suggestion that instead of Racal demerging Vodafone, it would demerge its other interests, leaving Racal as merely the holding company for RTG.

Profit leap to £2.4m at Finlan

By Colin Campbell

Finlan Group, the diversified property developer and materials handling concern, is raising its final dividend from 2.2p to 2.5p a share, making an annual total of 4.5p (4p), after turning in pre-tax profits of £2.38 million for the year ended March 31, compared with £1.51 million previously.

Turnover rose from £24.9 million to £33.6 million after what Mr David Rippon, the managing director, says was a "year of intense activity and expansion."

In March, Finlan raised £3.1 million through a placement of 4.77 million shares at 72p each which helped fund the acquisitions of UCM Timber Group, JC Gilbert, a trader in animal by-products, and Midtown Properties, together with central London property interests of the WCRS Group.

"These companies will produce a valuable contribution to results," the board adds. In June, Finlan announced it was subscribing, over a two-year period, to 18.4 per cent of Retail Corporation through which the group's property interests are expanded into garden centre stores.

Finlan New Homes, established in 1987 as a separate division, had a workload with a potential final sales value of £10 million in hand. The shares rose 2p to 90p.

MMC chief questions EEC mergers powers

By Wolfgang Minchaw

Mr Sydney Lipworth, chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, has attacked EEC plans for a common mergers and monopolies policy. On the 40th anniversary of the Monopolies and Restrictive Practices Act, under which the MMC was formed six months later in 1949, he said: "It is by no means certain that the powers of the Community are as strong as they believe."

Mr Lipworth's comments follow this week's decision by Mr Peter Sutherland, the Irish EEC Commissioner for competition policy, to block the bid for Irish Distillers by GC&C, a drinks consortium which includes Guinness, Grand Metropolitan and Allied-Lyons.

Mr Sutherland's move is seen as reaffirming his determination to wrest control of mergers policy in the run-up to the autumn, which is likely to decide the future of EEC merger policy. The Government has voiced its opposition to Mr Sutherland's plans, which if adopted would have serious implications for the MMC and Takeover Panel.

At present, the Commission's powers in mergers and acquisitions policy originate from Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty of Rome. The EEC has previously only intervened after the national authorities reached a verdict but Mr Sutherland wants to be allowed to vet mergers in advance.

Mr Lipworth gave warning that "they need to consider what kind of set-up they require to look at proposed mergers in a short period of time. Over the last years the MMC has reduced the average time for a merger investigation from six to four months. In his view the length of an investigation should be kept at a minimum. He fears the period of uncertainty for companies and investors may rise drastically once mergers are subject to EEC bureaucracy."

"Everyone agrees that EEC mergers policy is a good thing," he said. "But no one knows exactly how it should be set up." Mr Lipworth believes too much hot air has been created around 1992. "Europe may not be a single market yet but it is already a Common Market. So the difference is merely one of degree rather than principle."

Heywood buys 49% of Dutch company

By Alexandra Jackson

Heywood Williams, the glass and aluminium specialist, is taking its first step into Continental Europe by paying £7 million for a 49 per cent stake in a Dutch glass business, Scheuten Beheer.

A joint venture company is also being formed between Heywood Williams and Scheuten's owner, Mr Jacques Scheuten, to develop further opportunities in Europe. Heywood Williams will hold 70 per cent of the new company.

Scheuten made £1.2 million pre-tax profit in its last financial year. However, according to Mr Ralph Hinchcliffe, chairman of Heywood Williams, its profits are running 50 per cent higher this year, suggesting an exit p/e of 7 times current year earnings.

Heywood Williams reported a 44 per cent lift in pre-tax profits for the half to end-June up from £9.1 million to £13.1 million. Sales rose from £108.8 million to £133.7 million. Acquisitions provided £15.7 million of the sales increase and £1.5 million of the jump in profits.

The interim dividend rises from 3.4p to 4p. City analysts are expecting Heywood Williams to report pre-tax profits of £30 million for the full year, up from £20.2 million.

The strongest advance at the half-year stage came from the glass division which had £81 million of sales and £10.4 million of pre-tax profits compared with £55 million of sales and £7.3 million of profits last year.

Results from aluminium saw sales rise from £33 million to £36 million while profits rose from £1.8 million to £2.2 million.

The US moved back into profit of the operation. It contributed £500,000 to profits, having broken even last year.

Acquisitions are being actively sought. However, a forward-looking capital expenditure plan is also underway. By the year end Heywood Williams expects to have spent £11 million, excluding buys, compared with £7 million in 1987.

Mecca faces hard ride on road to Pleasurama

COMMENT David Brewerton

Little did the analysts who accompanied Michael Guthrie along Streatham High Road a couple of years ago guess that their guide to the high spots of the Mecca empire would one day bid for their then favourite company. Mecca is now a generation away from the Morleys and a much bigger fish than when it was flung out of Grand Metropolitan less than two years ago, but the bid for Pleasurama is a move which has only a marginal chance of success. Pleasurama, on the other hand, is no longer the market's darling.

Mecca had hoped to put on a bit more muscle before going for a group which is considerably larger than itself. The acquisitions have been fast and furious, but it is a measure of the size difference between the two companies that when all the convertible preference are converted, former shareholders of Pleasurama will have 72 per cent of the enlarged Mecca equity, Mecca shareholders the remainder.

Last year, after substantive talks (which were rumoured at the time but not admitted), Pleasurama told Mecca to run away and play. There is no prospect that its attitude will be any different this time around.

The timing of Mecca's bid is not of Mr Guthrie's choosing. It has been dictated by Pleasurama's proposed acquisition of Hard Rock, which is costing £63 million and is not reckoned by Mr Guthrie to be an appropriate deal. Shareholders in Pleasurama meet a week today to consider the Hard Rock deal, and they will be voting themselves into a £127 million rights issue at the same time.

It is difficult to see how Mecca can hope to succeed. The share exchange offer is not underwritten by cash, and if Mecca raises its terms, as it will have to to win Pleasurama shareholders, it is likely that Mecca will simply fall further and leave no increase at all in the final value.

There is the possibility, of course, that one of the fat capital investment houses will ride in to offer underwriting, which could support the Mecca price. But even that is no guarantee of success.

The reality of the bid is that shareholders are being offered their own shares back in a new wrapping, with a change of management. Pleasurama has not been the most popular share in the market and Michael Guthrie may have a hot track record, but there is unlikely to be enough in the current offer to persuade investors to change sides.

But Pleasurama should nevertheless take on board that the market is ready for a global player in the leisure business which is neither hotels nor drinks. Perhaps the tables should be turned on Mecca, and Pleasurama make the bid. It would make a lot more sense than Hard Rock.

Heath in 1986 cost some £1.2 million — a lot of money for a company with profits of £8.4 million for the year. At that stage the company seemed to be ready to rein back its acquisitive instincts. But no.

Hoare's leaving party

The five men who left the mergers and acquisitions department of Hoare Govett — the broker owned by the big Californian bank Security Pacific — at the end of last week have run into the strong arm of American-style lawyers. Bound for Swiss Bank Corp, the team of five, headed by Peter Large, handed in their notice to the firm's American chief executive Peter Voss, and were instantly dispatched, in customary City fashion, to "sit in their gardens."

But some of them have, I hear, since been summoned back to the firm's Broadgate headquarters for an embarrassing grilling with in-house legal staff who claim that various documents and computer discs — which the lawyers maintain belong to Hoare Govett and contain client information — cannot now be located. Some of the departing employees — still technically employed by Hoare — helpfully dredged up token pieces of paper to satisfy the demands. But they were, I hear, completely thrown when asked to sign a statement categorically denying that they had anything at home which might have belonged to the firm. A number of additional documents have, I am told, now surfaced.

On form British Airways could soon find a growing number of disillusioned cricket fans among its shareholders. At yesterday's press conference at

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Scots shoot for Ivory

If the Scottish fund management community is less active than usual today it could be because most of them are out shooting. As a means of getting in some practice a week before the Glorious Twelfth, Ronnie Maxwell, marketing manager for Ivory & Sims in Scotland, has gathered some 30 teams to get together — all put up by brokers and fund management firms — for a charity clay pigeon shoot in the grounds of Harburn House, West Calder, between Edinburgh and Glasgow. "I thought it would be nice to get the financial community together to do something for charity, especially a week before the grouse season starts," Maxwell says. He is charging each team £100 to enter and hopes to raise at least £2,500 for The Prince's Trust, which helps young entrepreneurs.

Dunlop, the finance director explained: "In cricket parlance, the more runs you can put on the board by June the better your end-of-season batting average." When a witty hack quipped: "Gordon, with simple logic like that, you should be chairman of the England cricket selectors," Sir Colin retorted: "He couldn't do any worse."

Frank Davis, managing director of glass manufacturer Rockware, is not in the habit of writing to his milkman. But he left a note out this morning, after discovering that milk was being delivered to his new HQ in London's Chancery Street in cartons, while neighbouring Metal Box was receiving bottles — made by Rockware. The note apparently requested that Rockware's milk be delivered likewise.

Carol Leonard

Chartered up to £11m

Chartered Trust, the consumer finance arm of Standard Chartered Bank, yesterday announced a 29 per cent increase in pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30, from £8.5 million to £11 million.

The company said that while bad debt experience continued to be satisfactory, the trading performance of all its divisions was strong. Areas experiencing an increase in lending volumes included motor finance, personal lending, property lending and contract hire.

Seabright bid

A wholly owned subsidiary of the Australian Western Mining group has started an action in Ontario Supreme Court against the former directors of Seabright Resources for Can\$60 million (£29 million). The bid arises out of the former directors' alleged failure to ensure that the public record of Seabright was maintained accurately as required by the Ontario Securities Act.

Aurora bid

Aurora has declared its cash bid for North British Steel wholly unconditional after receiving acceptances for 60.1 per cent of shares and buying 19 per cent. The offer remains open until further notice.

Honorbilt buy

Honorbilt Group is acquiring the school outwear specialist A Zigzags & Son, including its freehold property for £700,000 cash.

Global fraud law nears



Reader: "modern mechanism"

was the chairman of the House hearings, said that the recent charges filed against Mr Stephen Wang, an analyst for Morgan Stanley, the investment house, and Mr Fred Lee, a Taiwanese investor, demonstrated the need for tougher rules.

The two men were accused of conspiring to violate US securities laws by trading on inside information involving more than 25 corporate clients of Morgan Stanley. Mr Lee attempted to transfer his assets to a Hong Kong bank but was prevented by US authorities.

Mr Markey predicted that the House would complete action on the proposed International Securities Enforcement Co-operation Act of 1988 in this session of Congress and go to conference with the Senate before adjournment for the elections.

The Bill would provide the SEC with three new tools to both initiate investigations and take sanctions against violators. For the first time it would grant to the agency the power to aid foreign governments which request assistance in their own investigations regardless of whether the SEC has a similar investigation underway.

Mr Ruder said that he was confident that once the SEC has the discretion to "help foreign authorities pursue criminals" then other nations will reciprocate.

In addition, it would grant waivers, in specified cases, of the comprehensive US Freedom of Information Act in order to protect the confidentiality of records produced by the SEC on behalf of foreign governments.

Mr Ruder said that due to the current broad reach of the Act, many foreign governments will not co-operate with the United States on investigations.

A third provision of the Bill will allow the SEC to take tough action against violations of securities laws based on investigations by foreign government authorities. At the present time, the SEC cannot act unless it has a similar investigation underway.

Clowes is bailed until January

Mr Peter Clowes, former head of the crashed Barlow Clowes investment group, was further remanded on £300,000 bail when he appeared before City of London magistrates yesterday.

During a five-minute hearing, Mr Clowes, who arrived at court in a Mercedes with his new solicitor Mr Ian Burton, was bailed conditionally to appear again at Guildhall Magistrates' Court on January 9, 1989.

Two sureties totalling £300,000 were continued from his last court appearance in June.

Mr Clowes is charged with perverting the course of justice between November 25, 1987 and January 31 this year, by causing or procuring the destruction of some documents and the creation of certain false documents.

Identical bail conditions were applied as in Mr Clowes's June appearance. These prevent him from contacting past or present Barlow Clowes employees or clients except at the behest and in the presence of Cork Gully, the accountancy firm, or DJ Freeman, solicitor for Cork.

Mr Clowes is also prevented from contacting past or present financial intermediaries who recommended Barlow Clowes' products except with permission of the Serious Fraud Office.

Briton remanded on shares charge

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

A British national, Mr Andrew Chapman, aged 32, who was arrested in France with two other men. The Swiss authorities are seeking their extradition.

The arrests were made last week in swoops by Swiss and French police. Seven people are held in France, among them an American, Mr Thomas Quinn, aged 58.

Mr Chapman, Geneva-born and also with Australian nationality, is director of the Geneva office of Kettler Investment, a Vaduz, Liechtenstein, registered concern. The declared purpose of the office, opened in January last year, is the "purchase and sale of shares and services associated therewith."

He holds a similar post at Falconston Financial, set up in November, 1985, and at Equity Management Services, registered in January 1987, whose office was moved from Geneva to the nearby town of Nyon last January.

According to his lawyers, Mr Chapman, who is married with a family, was unaware of any of the alleged illegalities in the activities of those concerns. They say he has no formal economic or financial qualifications.

The lawyer for Mrs Davies, who holds both Swiss and British nationality, says she, too, denies any connection. Police and Interpol have been working on the case for several months.

Earlier this year a "collector", allegedly working on behalf of Kettler Investment, was arrested in Malmo, Sweden, and accused of having taken £890,000 kronor (£85,000) of Swedish clients' money out of the country in violation of exchange control regulations.

There is also believed to have been a lucrative association with investors in some of the affluent Gulf countries.

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

British Rail branches out on community aid

● **Contact:** James Crowe, BR community unit, at (01) 928 5151

MOTORCYCLING

Scot must exceed his form to win

By Michael Scott

The British Motorcycle Grand Prix at Donington Park, sponsored by Shell Oils, on Sunday is the twelfth in a series of 16 races. If the others are anything to go by, the chances of a European victory are virtually zero. The previous 15 races have been won by an American or an Australian.

Of course, if victories were that easy to predict, it would not be necessary to run the contests, and racing at home always gives added impetus. Thus the top Briton, Niall Mackenzie, a Scot, may exceed his form and take his first grand prix win at home.

It would be the first British win since Barry Sheene's in 1981. Mackenzie's works Honda, sponsored by HB Cigarettes, is the equal of the world champion Wayne Gardner's Rothmans-sponsored machine. But misfortunes like two engine seizures in the last two races have made Mackenzie eighth in the championship, and even Gardner, the Australian, is something of an outsider, having won only three of 11 races.

The rival Yamahas have taken the upper hand in the technical battle between the two dominant Japanese rivals and even the newly returned Pepsi-Suzuki team has managed two wins through the Texan, Kevin Schwantz.

Those seeking a safer bet to upset the American domination will look instead to the Frenchman, Christian Sarron, a former 250 world champion, whose mount is a V4 Yamaha YZR, like that of the champion, Eddie Lawson, of California.

Sarron, aged 33, from Clermont Ferrand, is a slight and somewhat elfin figure, with the ironic nickname of "Tarzan", Christian, not to be confused



Christian Sarron: "Tarzan"

with younger brother, Dominique, a 250cc competitor, has four overall wins in the last European Grand Prix in Germany in 1985. That, however, was in the rain, and in dry conditions the Frenchman has shown himself more likely to lose than to win. But he wears his trademark as a new leaf and is riding in a consciously more relaxed manner.

Two consecutive races without a crash back up his claim — he was second in both. But if there is a question about his ability to finish a race, there can be little doubt that he has the potential to win, for in spite of his avowed relaxed approach Sarron has shown himself the fastest rider this year.

His Yamaha, finished in the dashy French racing-blue livery of his Gaisle sponsor, has started the last five races from pole position and although he has set only one new lap record and one wet-weather fastest lap in the series, his pace in the laps are invariably faster than race laps.

But tactics and the will to win are also important, the latter being a prime quality of the Americans and the notably gritty Australian pair of Gardner and the newcomer Kevin Magee (Lucky Strike Yamaha), who has already scored his first win in only his first season.

Riding the fastest may not be enough and in the final analysis Sarron has only an equal chance to Mackenzie to usher in a new era of European racing victories.

Women banking on lightweight gift



The British women's coxed fours Olympic rowing team yesterday launched a new boat which could save them vital seconds in Seoul (Louise Taylor writes). Provided by the sponsors, Hill Samuel, the merchant bankers, the boat replaces a heavier, out-dated two-year-old model.

"The new boat might just make a second or two difference in their performance and that could be sufficient to fulfil their ambition of making it to the last six, which would mean they were in the final in Korea," Stephen Ginn, the team coach, said.

With an average weight of around 11 stone, the crew is on the light side, and Ginn said: "The boat is the size for them, it's very responsive and above all it represents a big psychological boost."

Another bonus is that they've got plenty of time to get used to it."

The photograph shows (left to right) the women in action on the Thames near Molesey boat club, Surrey yesterday: Sue Smith (stroke), Jo Gough (three), Kate Grose (two), Fiona Johnston (bow), and Alison Norrish (cox, hidden from view).

(Photograph: Bryn Colton)

YACHTING

British not so well prepared

From Barry Pickthall, Honolulu

While crews prepared for the possibility of Hurricane Fabio disrupting the third inshore race of the Kenwood Cup yesterday as it swept across the Pacific towards Hawaii, the British team, lying fifth overall in this ocean-racing series, is left reflecting on the lack of preparation given to this event.

The three-crew team led by Robin Aisher arrived in Hawaii five days before the series began with high hopes of success but found themselves wanting in the areas of boat speed, tactics and, in some cases, application.

Any chance of a respectable performance was lost when the British team, made up of Jono, Indulgence and Yeoman XXVII, finished second to last in the 150-mile, triple-point-

scoring Molokai race earlier this week. Tales of bad luck were shared by all teams but the success achieved by the Australians, whose teams took the top three places, appears to have been born of hard work and not the wheel of fortune.

Alan Brown, manager of the three Australian teams contesting this premier series, confirmed yesterday that his nine-year-old group arrived here four days before the British and sailed the Molokai course at night before our crews had given any thought of setting their sails.

Britain's three skippers, Aisher, Eddie Varden Owen and Andrew Hurst, declined to follow the same advice given by their own coach, Bill Edgerton. "I believe we're the best pre-

pared here," Brown said of his Australians yesterday, adding: "And sailing the Molokai course beforehand — just as the New Zealand winners did two years ago — gave us the chance to compare notes."

Just before the start, Brown sent his navigators in a helicopter to help them judge the conditions over the initial stages of the race after the team had completed their daily 6 a.m. run around the local Alo Moana point.

Brown has taken a leaf from the New Zealanders' book on preparation. The Kiwis spent four weeks training in the Solent and English Channel before leaving Britain in their wets and carrying off the Admiral's Cup last summer.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

CRICKET
Fifth County Test Match
11.0, 50 overs minimum
The Oval: England v West Indies.
Bridleway Assurance Championship
11.0 to 5.30 or 6.0 (or 102 overs)
Cheltenham: Gloucestershire v Warwickshire.
CANTERBURY: Kent v Lancashire.
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NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Somerset.
WESTON-SUPER-MARE: Somerset v Surrey.
EASTBOURNE: Sussex v Hampshire.

FOOTBALL
Premier League
11.0 to 5.30 or 6.0 (or 102 overs)
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Cecil achieves 13th consecutive juvenile success with double

Henry Cecil's double with Gallari and Priceless Pearl at Yarmouth yesterday maintained the champion trainer's splendid sequence of having won with his last 13 two-year-olds.

Steve Causton led all the way on Gallari, a \$280,000 Keeneland purchase by Charles St George, to win the About Anglia Maiden Stakes by four lengths from newcomer Musashim.

Cecil, who was repeating his success in the event last year with Sales said: "I think it was a good performance by Gallari, for the second is rated a good horse and Steve never had to pick up his mount."

Causton had even more of an arrow in the 9-1 on favourite Priceless Pearl, who won the EBF Scroby Sands Maiden Fillies Stakes in an exercise canter. She was in front all the way with Causton not moving a muscle, and won by a facile 2½ lengths from Elegant Rose.

Priceless Pearl was bred by her owner Sheikh Mohammed and Cecil said: "There is a long way still to go but I am hopeful she could develop into a contender for the group three Hoover Fillies Mile at Ascot towards the end of September."

The 12-year-old trained Merchant's Dream, who ended Cecil's run of four wins in the Freddie Starr Handicap, will next be seen out over hurdles.

RACING

Cecil achieves 13th consecutive juvenile success with double

It was three weeks ago that Merchant's Dream gave his Norfolk owners, Michael Baxter and John Medley, their first success on their local course. A half a mile out on this occasion they could not have held up much hope, because the gelding was under pressure from Gary Bardwell.

Cold Marble took up the running going to the three-furlong marker, but then Merchant's Dream began to pick up and he took the measure of the favourite just inside the final furlong to beat him 1½ lengths.

The defeat of Cold Marble, attempting to concede 18lb to Merchant's Dream, robbed Willie Haggas of a double. He captured the City Of Norwich Stakes with the favourite Al Khaleel who, taking over in the lead when pace-making French King pulled up lame, won by three lengths from Hard To Come By and Sunfast.

Al Khaleel was Haggas's first winner for Sheikh Amin Dahawi, for whom he also has a couple of two-year-olds.

Just Jennings came away from Windham and Aquarian Prince after racing in line with the pair half a furlong out to land the Pointon Handicap by a length. So Geoff Lewis had a rare winner at the seaside course. The only other winner the Epsom trainer has had at Yarmouth was Who's Zoomin' who in a seller two years ago.

Who's Zoomin' was a seller two years ago.

Gabina in line for tilt against Warning

From Our French Racing Correspondent, Deauville

Gabina, partnered by Eric Legrix, sprang a 14-1 surprise in Deauville's first pattern race of the season, the £23,250 Prix D'Astaire (one mile) yesterday.

Jacky Cammager's daughter of Caro quickened well to lead inside the final furlong, eventually finishing 2½ lengths clear of the favourite, Lyphale.

The former Henry Cecil-trained Bloodstock finished fifth, and was doing all her best work at the end of the race.

However, she proved a handful for Tony Cruz, racing with her head to one side, and there is evidently still some work to be done on this temperamental filly.

The winner will now take on much stiffer opposition in the shape of Misses, Soviet Star and Warning, in the Prix Jacques Le Marois.

The listed Prix Yacovlev (six furlongs), for untrained two-year-olds, is usually won by a high-class animal. This year's winner, Goldeneye (Gary Moore), may turn out to be something special.

A Narey half-brother to Riviere D'Or, Goldeneye struck the front inside the final furlong, and strode clear of Lightning King, eventually winning easily down by 2½ lengths.

Skiary completes Starkey's sorry day

Greville Starkey, Britain's senior jockey, must have wished he had stayed in bed yesterday, for at Brighton he rode four strongly fancied favourites — and all were trounced.

His mislucky day started in the first race when Starkey's mount, the 15-8 on favourite Elenos, was caught close home by 40-1 shot Seldom Blue.

The tale of woe continued when Lesphocastor, 6-4 favourite in the seller, virtually refused to race and then Rana Pratap could never strike a blow

in the George Robey Challenge Trophy.

Worse was to come. Starkey set a blistering gallop on 11-8 favourite Skiary in the Cliftonville Maiden Stakes and was soon 15 lengths clear of the pack. However, these bold tactics backfired too.

Guy Harwood's filly, runner-up in her previous four races, became desperately leg weary in the final furlong was quickly overtaken by eventual winner Shikabell, and 66-1 shot Shikabell.

Bruce Raymond, for more than 20 years a weighing room colleague, rode his first winner since 1984 for Michael Stoute when playing a masterly game of waiting in front of High Bluff in the George Robey Challenge Handicap.

Dictating just the pace he required, Raymond made all and kept just enough up his sleeve to hold off Hoorary Lady and Welsh Paganity in a triple victory for the 50th winner of the season.

Results from yesterday's four meetings

Brighton

1.20 (m 7), 1.10.00. BLUE (P. Cecil, 40-1) won by 4 lengths from Seldom Blue (P. Cecil, 40-1). 2.10 (m 7), 2.00.00. BLUE (P. Cecil, 40-1) won by 4 lengths from Seldom Blue (P. Cecil, 40-1).

2.48 (m 1), 2.40.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 3.10 (m 1), 3.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

4.10 (m 1), 4.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 5.10 (m 1), 5.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

6.10 (m 1), 6.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 7.10 (m 1), 7.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

8.10 (m 1), 8.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 9.10 (m 1), 9.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

10.10 (m 1), 10.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 11.10 (m 1), 11.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

12.10 (m 1), 12.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 13.10 (m 1), 13.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

14.10 (m 1), 14.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 15.10 (m 1), 15.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

16.10 (m 1), 16.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 17.10 (m 1), 17.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

18.10 (m 1), 18.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 19.10 (m 1), 19.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

20.10 (m 1), 20.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 21.10 (m 1), 21.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

22.10 (m 1), 22.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 23.10 (m 1), 23.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

24.10 (m 1), 24.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 25.10 (m 1), 25.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

26.10 (m 1), 26.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 27.10 (m 1), 27.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

28.10 (m 1), 28.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 29.10 (m 1), 29.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

30.10 (m 1), 30.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 31.10 (m 1), 31.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

32.10 (m 1), 32.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 33.10 (m 1), 33.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

34.10 (m 1), 34.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 35.10 (m 1), 35.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

36.10 (m 1), 36.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 37.10 (m 1), 37.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

38.10 (m 1), 38.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 39.10 (m 1), 39.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

40.10 (m 1), 40.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 41.10 (m 1), 41.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

42.10 (m 1), 42.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 43.10 (m 1), 43.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

44.10 (m 1), 44.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1). 45.10 (m 1), 45.00.00. RESERVE (M. Barker, 10-1) won by 1½ lengths from Rana Pratap (M. Barker, 10-1).

Board must get back on medals track

COMMENTARY



David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent

The most important event of the Kodak/TSB Olympic trials takes place today, tomorrow or on Sunday at the Alexander Stadium, but in a Birmingham hotel on Monday morning when the selectors will confront the British Board of Control and its perverse, misdirected selection policy. There is every possibility that six members of the selection committee will emphatically win a tag of war against the seventh, Ewan Murray, who is chairman of the board.

It must certainly be hoped they will win. The board's decision, taken against the advice of all specialist opinion, is, though legitimate to a degree, a policy which is potentially destructive to Britain's prestige and the Olympic Games.

Murray's challenge to any selector who disagrees with the policy — the first two past the post to qualify — to resign, aimed primarily at Frank Dick, the national chief coach, was an appallingly inept piece of management and public

relations. Five of the selectors — Dick and the four team managers — are those who will be closest to the teams in Seoul.

Equally inept has been the regular pronouncements by Tony Ward, spokesperson for the British board who has triple-jumped from one Press statement to another in defence of a discreditable policy. There must be no room for sentiment, Ward has trumpeted.

Those athletes least looking for sentiment are the most experienced, most realistic of competitors, previous medal winners in

international competition: some of whom, such as Cram, Coe, Backner, Sanderson and Whitbread, face exclusion from the Games on account of the board's policy.

There were three reasons why the board may have adopted their miscalculated plan for selection trials, none of them confirmed, all of them likely: the alleged failure of the elite pre-selection system at last year's world championships in Rome; the wish to give those able but less prominent competitors an unequivocal route to selection and the valued Olympic privilege of taking part; and, critically, the need to boost the televised AAA championships into a major event at which all the top competitors would be obliged to be present.

The board deny the latter reason, even though Richard Russell, of ITV, sits on the promotions committee. If ITV did not specifically suggest the trials, it certainly demanded the weekend three-day

schedule which prohibits middle-distance doubling-up.

ITV has spent £10 million on securing domestic athletics coverage, and the hype preceding today's meeting has steadily grown to fever pitch. This week's Press release from the board's publicity office significantly begins: "British athletes this week contemplate the greatest and most important domestic meeting since the war."

The most important, that is, for all but those who have the best chance of winning medals in Seoul and earning Britain's prestige; and whose minutely detailed, sensitively scheduled preparations are compromised, if not fundamentally damaged, by having to produce an artificial peak six weeks before the Games, something which is less of an impediment to lesser athletes.

The marginable fact is that any nation has only a handful of exceptional competitors with that rare combination of ability and character, of technique and mental

resolution, that withstands Olympic competition to win a medal; and then all the rest. To promote the interests of the rest above that of the potential medal winners is the strangely short-sighted, for it is the medal winners who ultimately establish the prosperity and standards of the sport, who establish the prestige that television subsequently wishes to buy. ITV will have not the slightest future interest in some of those competitors whom the circumstances of the trials will send to Seoul, by the accident of one result on one particular day.

Potential medal winners are a precious commodity, and it is paramount that they should be given every consideration and assistance; far more than then finish, with dignity, out of sight in Seoul. It is absurd of Ward to say, on television on Tuesday night, that competitors should be selected only by the measuring tape, and that if

Backner is not fit, "there are three great athletes waiting to take his place". That is demonstrably untrue. Ward talks of old lions (redundant, he presumes) and young awaiting cubs: the sentiment is his, not the selectors'.

In spite of the failure of Cram, Thompson and McKean in Rome, Britain finished fourth in the world, one place better than in the first world championships in Helsinki. The last time the present selection policy was used, for the 1976 Olympic Games, Britain achieved one bronze medal, by Brendan Foster.

The present system, if rigidly maintained, will not send any useful athletes to Seoul, but to win medals Britain must send its established elite. And may not, whatever the elite do or do not achieve in Birmingham. Not to send them will be a calamity for the individual, for the sport and for Britain.

Trials preview, page 35

END COLUMN

Coach barred from poolside

By Steven Downes

The 38 swimmers in Britain's Olympic team leave today for a two-week training camp in Marseille, France, to hone their fitness towards the peaks which will be demanded in Seoul. Meanwhile, the coach to one member of the team has been forced to stay at home, not because of lack of finance or sponsorship, but because the team management has made it clear that his presence there would not be welcome.

Paddy Hayes is the man who has turned Kevin Boyd over from backstroke to the British best front crawl distance swimmer. Boyd, from the Borough of South Tyneside Club, is the British record holder and has been selected for the 400 and 1,500 free-style events in Seoul where, if he performs up to the promise he showed at the beginning of this summer, he could be one of Britain's handful of Olympic finalists.

Hayes, aged 57, has been coaching swimmers, including a number of internationals, for three decades. "For three years, Kevin and I have been working towards him winning a medal at the Olympics," Hayes says, "and at the most crucial time, he is taken away out of my hands. That's a bit conducive to fast swimming or to winning medals."

Council's funding under a cloud

Hayes's employers, the local council, had arranged for a £500 sponsorship from a local printing firm to send the coach to France, but two weeks ago Hayes's request to attend the camp received a categorical "no" from Gerry Thain, the team manager.

That rejection "hurt me a bit," Hayes says, "and it has also put the council's substantial funding of the swimming programme under a cloud. 'They feel slighted, too,' Hayes says.

Hurt and slighted, but not surprised, Hayes was encouraged to request to attend the camp by one of the six staff coaches who will be accompanying the team, but Hayes was reluctant: "I had a gut feeling that they'd turn me down." Precedent also indicated that he would receive a negative response: In 1984, Mike Higgs, the flamboyant coach of Olympic medal winner, Sarah Hardcastle, had to battle against the British team officials in order to obtain accreditation to be with his swimmer in Los Angeles.

It is a conflict between coaches and administration which occurs all too often in British swimming, but Hayes does seem to be changing. At the suggestion of the coaches, the

Hayes's abortive trip to Marseille

timetable of last week's TSB National Championships in Leeds was unusually structured, with heats in the evening and the finals at lunchtime the following day, mimicking the programme in Seoul.

Also at Leeds, the British Swimming Coaches' Association carried out a quick poolside poll which drew some interesting results in view of Hayes's abortive trip to Marseille. Thirteen leading coaches, many with several swimmers who made the British team, were asked a two-part question: Should coaches of Great Britain's selected swimmers be allowed to accompany their swimmers (a) at training camps; (b) at meets?

The response to (a) was unanimously in favour. On (b), 10 voted for, three against. All three dissenters are British team staff coaches.

At the announcement of the British team earlier this week Thain defended the present policy of not allowing individuals' coaches on to pool-side at camps, saying: "It is essential that the team is working as a unit and working with a group coach. We feel that there is a place there for individual coaches for all of that period. We do already have a large coaching staff."

In the past week, the team management does seem to have been treading water on the subject. Thain has sent a letter to all involved coaches saying they would be welcome to visit at Crystal Palace, when the team trains there before leaving for South Korea, and Hickson has been in touch with all the coaches, including Hayes, asking for their advice and suggestions.

Young trio adds a twist to the old, old story

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

THE OVAL (England won toss): England have scored 203 for nine wickets against West Indies

Any England supporter convincing himself that the present is dead and only the future matters might have left the Oval last night feeling faintly encouraged. The majority, anxious to see the present series end with a genuine contest, will have gone home thoroughly downhearted.

For all the succour offered by the disciplined batting of three relative novices in Curtis, Bailey and Smith, England ended the opening day of the final Cornhill Test in familiar strife. The groundsman, Harry Brind, true to his promise, has produced the best pitch of the series and England are about 150 short of a competitive score.

There were stages when the spring-like optimism which comes with a fresh young side looked as if it might be justified. Curtis and Bailey added 65 for the second wicket, Bailey and Smith 39 for the third, Smith and Capel 39 for the fifth. But each time the bat threatened to control the ball, this relentless West Indian attack pulled England back as if they were a mischievous dog on a strong lead.

Ambrose, a bowler of impressive control, dismissed three of the top five to increase his score for the series to 21. Marshall, getting into the action unusually late, took two more to equal the West Indian record for wickets in a series. Even the off-spin of Harper, previously exercised by only two overs in this series, claimed three wickets in a long spell from the pavilion end.

Smith, playing only his

SCOREBOARD FROM THE OVAL

England won toss

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Ambrose on this firm pitch. In trying to play the ball down, he contrived only to loop it gently to short leg.

Once the hardness had left the ball, however, there was little assistance for the quick bowlers and three hooked fours by Curtis, two of them from consecutive balls by Marshall, indicated a lack of pace in the pitch. Bailey, whose first instinct is invariably to get forward, showed that he is no mug on the back foot and by lunchtime there were some contented smiles on an England balcony which briefly contained the figure of Mike Gatting.

A modest spell from Marshall in early afternoon suggested that the West Indies might be ailing. We should have known better. Benjamin found the outside edge of Curtis's bat with an inswinger. He had batted